9th Anniversary Issue!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

v10, Numero Uno | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | May 1999

"That victim who is able to articulate the situation of the victim has ceased to be a victim; he, or she, has become a threat." James Baldwin

Mumia as Evergreen Graduation Speaker

Megan Davis

Mumia Abu-Jamal will be a guest speaker at Evergreen's 1999 graduation ceremony. He is allotted a 10 minute time slot, which was created by taking 5 minutes off of the keynote speech and 5 minutes off of one of the student/faculty speeches. His speech, which he created specifically for this ceremony, is already in the hands of TESC students in the form of an audio recording.

Gary Locke declined as keynote speaker last weekend under pressure; apparently the state police threatened that if he speaks alongside Abu-Jamal, they won't invite him to their potlucks anymore. In a way, I'm disappointed that Locke won't be there. I would love to have witnessed a side-by-side performance by a pro-death penalty governor and a man on death row - two larger-than-life political figures, one deeply immersed in the state system, and the other a radical critic representing marginalized populations. They would move different portions of the audience, would have different things to say about the future we face, would have given audience members a lot to talk and think about afterwards. But, alas, the cops' buddy system is strong and Locke's stomach is weak.

In a way, I'm disappointed that Locke won't be there. I would love to have witnessed a side-by-side performance by a pro-death penalty governor and a man on death row

Instead, it appears that author and TESC professor Stephanie Coontz will be our keynote speaker. Her focus of study has been sociology- specifically, the way the American family has evolved during the 20th Century. She was appointed by administration members without student consultation, because they felt time was too short for group decision-making process.

One issue that is still up in the air concerning all this is whether Abu-Jamal will be compensated for the energy he's put into our graduation ceremony. It's pretty crazy that he has not yet been offered a fee for

(Continued page 5)

NATO in Kosovo- August 1914...August 1999?

Jerome Johnson

Several readers have asked me to write about the Yugoslavia War.

I don't think the U.S., or NATO, should be involved in what is after all a civil war. It's very nasty—what war is not?—and my heart goes out to the refugees. It's not easy to watch the TV pictures of miserable Kosovar refugees, nor is it easy to watch the pictures of Angolan, Congolese or Sudanese refugees. Ethnic cleansing is just as reprehensible in Yugoslavia as it is in Rwanda. Genuine humanitarian help—food, medicine etc,—should be given as much as possible. But I oppose the war for several reasons.

First, Yugoslavia has not committed aggression against the United States or any other NATO country. There have been no incidents of terrorism, or any other action which would warrant military action against Yugoslavia. As a result there's no legal reason to make war on Yugoslavia, and in fact by attacking NATO has violated its own charter as well as the UN charter. Both prohibit aggression. Moreover, the war marks a historic change in NATO policy. Until now—even during the Soviet incursions into Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Afghanistan in 1979—NATO has maintained a strict policy of being a defensive alliance which would act ONLY if a member state was directly attacked. The current war marks the change of NATO from a defensive alliance to a regional policeman.

This shift in NATO policy germinated in the early 1990s, after the end of the Cold War. As Europe and the world celebrated, a somber mood closed in at the Pentagon. Officers who had spent their lives planning and training for World War III began to ask a question no one wanted to hear: With the Cold War over, why keep NATO intact? Its purpose had been to deter an attack from Russia through the Fulda Gap. Mission accomplished. How would the military justify maintaining such an expensive structure when critical needs at home must be met?

The Greeks, who have to live in the neighborhood after the war, are pushing for a comprehensive political settlement for a long-term regional peace.

And if NATO went out of businees, it would be much, much more difficult to project American military power into Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East.

I don't know if the Yugoslavia War is being used to justify continuing NATO. I have no evidence, but I'm very concerned. The Administration has told us that we're fighting this war for two reasons. One, the humanitarian: Ethnic cleansing must be stopped. When I heard this I couldn't help but remember the terrible butchery in Rwanda and Burundi five years ago. More than half a million people were slaughtered in three months, more than a million over the course of 1994. Victoria Falls literally ran red for weeks; parts of Lake Tanganyika are still polluted from the bodies dumped in it. Yet there were no pictures on our TV screens every half hour, no outraged calls for NATO to come to the rescue, no demands that SOMETHING Be Done. And I think that's because we have a Eurocentric nation, and our news media has a Eurocentric focus. The majority of Americans are white, and to them African lives just don't count as much as European lives. KIRO Radio talk show host Dori Monson took most of his show last month and very courageously discussed this issue on the air. Although I don't always agree with Monson, he deserves high praise and gratitude for even raising the issue, and he did so candidly and with a firm command of the facts. He acknowledged the fact that coverage of Africa remains poor "because Africans don't look like most of us in the U.S., and most of us only care about people who do look like us." To my knowledge, Monson and his colleagues at KIRO were the first white commentators to note this hypocrisy. And although I opposed an intervention in Rwanda for the same reasons I oppose the Yugoslavia War, I would very much have liked getting updates every half-hour and the same level of concern, and as great a relief effort. I mean, we never offered to take in 20,000 Rwandan refugees, whereas the US is already making arrangements to accept 20,000 Kosovar refugees.

The other reason we're fighting the Yugoslavia War is "the NATO and US strategic interest." This one may be closer to the mark. We're told that stopping Milosevic now will prevent a wider war, possibly a world war. I'm not certain this is true; in fact,

(Continued page 9)

3 Year Boycott Success! Gardenburger Cuts Ties to NORPAC

On Friday evening, April 23, PCUN, Oregon's farmworker union, announced the immediate suspension of its boycott of Gardenburger, Inc., products. Earlier that day, Gardenburger, Inc., officially notified PCUN of its decision to no longer contract with NORPAC. This business relationship between Gardenburger and NORPAC was the reason PCUN originally called for the boycott of Gardenburger, Inc. products.

"Gardenburger's decision to sever ties to NORPAC is a great victory for farmworkers," said Erik Nicholson, boycott coordinator for PCUN. "With the loss of Gardenburger's revenue, NORPAC growers are now under increased pressure to finally sit down and negotiate with farmworkers. This victory would not have been possible without the thousands of supporters nationwide that actively supported our campaign."

Gardenburger's announcement yesterday follows a high level of boycott activity. Earlier in the week, students at the University of Oregon in Eugene voted by a 500 vote margin to support the NORPAC/Gardenburger boycott. In Madison, WI, the student food committee recommended that all Gardenburger products be removed from campus. Campaigns at dozens of other campuses nationwide were on-going. Also, a PCUN organizer and farmworker are currently on an eight state East coast speaking tour promoting the NORPAC/Gardenburger boycott with local activists and campus groups.

"We're now calling on all who supported our boycott of Gardenburger products to redouble their efforts in support the boycott of NORPAC's FLAV-R-PAC and Westpac frozen fruits and vegetables," said Nicholson.

The three year boycott of Gardenburger received nationwide support. Over 100 stores, eight universities nationwide had committed to no longer carry NORPAC or Gardenburger products. Religious organizations such as the National Ministries Unit of the National Council of Churches had also endorsed the boycott.

In 1992, PCUN called for a nationwide boycott of all NORPAC products, which include FLAV-R-PAC and Westpac frozen fruits and vegetables. In 1996 Gardenburger products were added to the list, due to Gardenburger's refusal to sever ties to NORPAC. The NORPAC boycott is the result of the failure to the grower owners of the processor to agree to negotiate in good faith with farmworkers employed at their farms. These same growers have repeatedly resorted to firing, evicting, and intimidating farmworkers who seek to improve their living and working conditions. People can contact the PCUN group at 866-6000, ext. 6144.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index. Back issues are also available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Jerome Johnson	Sylvia Smith
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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 21st

6pm at Olympia Center Lobby

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, May 25th
7pm at the Olympia Library

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Letters & Briefs

Rise Up for Peace

For the past year or two Americans have been wallowing in nostalgia for World War II and life in the 40s in our books and movies and music. Maybe it's nothing but a coincidence that we've just started a war in Europe. Maybe. Or perhaps we're all so rich and crazy and bored that we need a new spectacle to divert us. Or maybe we're so frightened by the imminent computer meltdown and environmental armageddon that we've decided to (as the old song goes) "drop the big one and see what happens." Or maybe we've given up on Jesus coming back to unleash the madness we learned in Sunday school, and we've decided to do the job ourselves.

Of course the Serbs have been unspeakably cruel to the Albanians. But they've been fighting for centuries, and it should have been obvious to anyone that they weren't going to suddenly stop now, just because our king, crazed with shame and rage, told them to.

Well, here it comes, unless we as a people rise up and stop it. We did it thirty years ago, the first time in history that an entire generation in a powerful society was so sickened by the slaughter that it simply refused to allow it to continue. But we were so young and innocent then, and of course we had the draft. Now we're old and tired, and the young are too disillusioned by all that has happened since to even bother with the daily news.

Or maybe not. Perhaps this is all a prelude to the light of love opening and entering into our broken hearts. What a wonderful way to end this century of catastrophe, to rise up for Peace, to study war no more. I suppose it's possible. I've seen so many strange things in my fifty years, I guess anything is possible.

Craig Oare

Help Incarcerated Youth

by Holly Sheehan

I attend the Evergreen State College and am enrolled in a cultural studies class which every Tuesday brings our program, known as Gateways, into Maple Lane School to help incarcerated students learn more about their own culture and to help them get excited about learning.

The Gateways program has been providing cultural and college education to incarcerated students at Maple Lane School for over four years. The students in this college program have earned the privilege to attend classes through their positive behavior changes and continue to show that they are eager to learn and to make positive changes in their lives.

The program provides a cultural class in which Maple Lane students receive High School credits and after the High School class we hold the college class for those who want to pursue a college education. In order to participate in the program the young men have had to earn the honor of participating through achieving a higher level of behavior. We continue working with these students once they are released into group homes and help them in their transition when their sentience is complete. Currently we have one student residing in a group home who is a full time student at TESC.

By providing higher education as an option to incarcerated students we can increase their chances of making these positive changes. . .and in doing so we create a positive change in our community as a whole.

Incarcerated youth do not qualify for financial aid. The Institution once paid for some of the tuition, out of the welfare fund, but no longer do so. We are facing a financial challenge now in order to help these young men continue their education.

Currently, there are seven young men registered for credit at TESC. For each student it costs us $351 for the 4 credits. We are short of money so some of the students are only taking 2 credits while doing 4 credits of college work. Others are doing the course work and auditing the class.

We are attempting to raise money for these youth by having benefits, providing food for special events. In addition, we are having a silent auction. The young men at Maple Lane are assisting us by donating wood working products they have made as well as their artwork.

There will be a silent auction held on May 19 and 20th as part of the "Honoring the Spirit of Youth" Summit. The proceeds of the auction will be used to provide scholarships for the Gateways program at TESC.

We would appreciate any contribution you can make either to the auction or a monetary donation to the Foundation. All donations should be made payable to The Evergreen State College Foundation (Gateway Project). For more information, you can contact the program director, Dr. Carol Minugh at 866-6000 x6025.

Big Mountain Update

Big Mountain, Arizona- At some time within the period of April 18-20, Pauline Whitesinger suffered the loss of both a cow

(Continued page 14)

"If you are unsatisfied with McPaper and if media institutions are not serving you, you have the right and responsibility to create your own.

"If you are fed up with corporate media, you need to rebuild connections; and alternatives do exist for you to get involved in."

–Tim Wise

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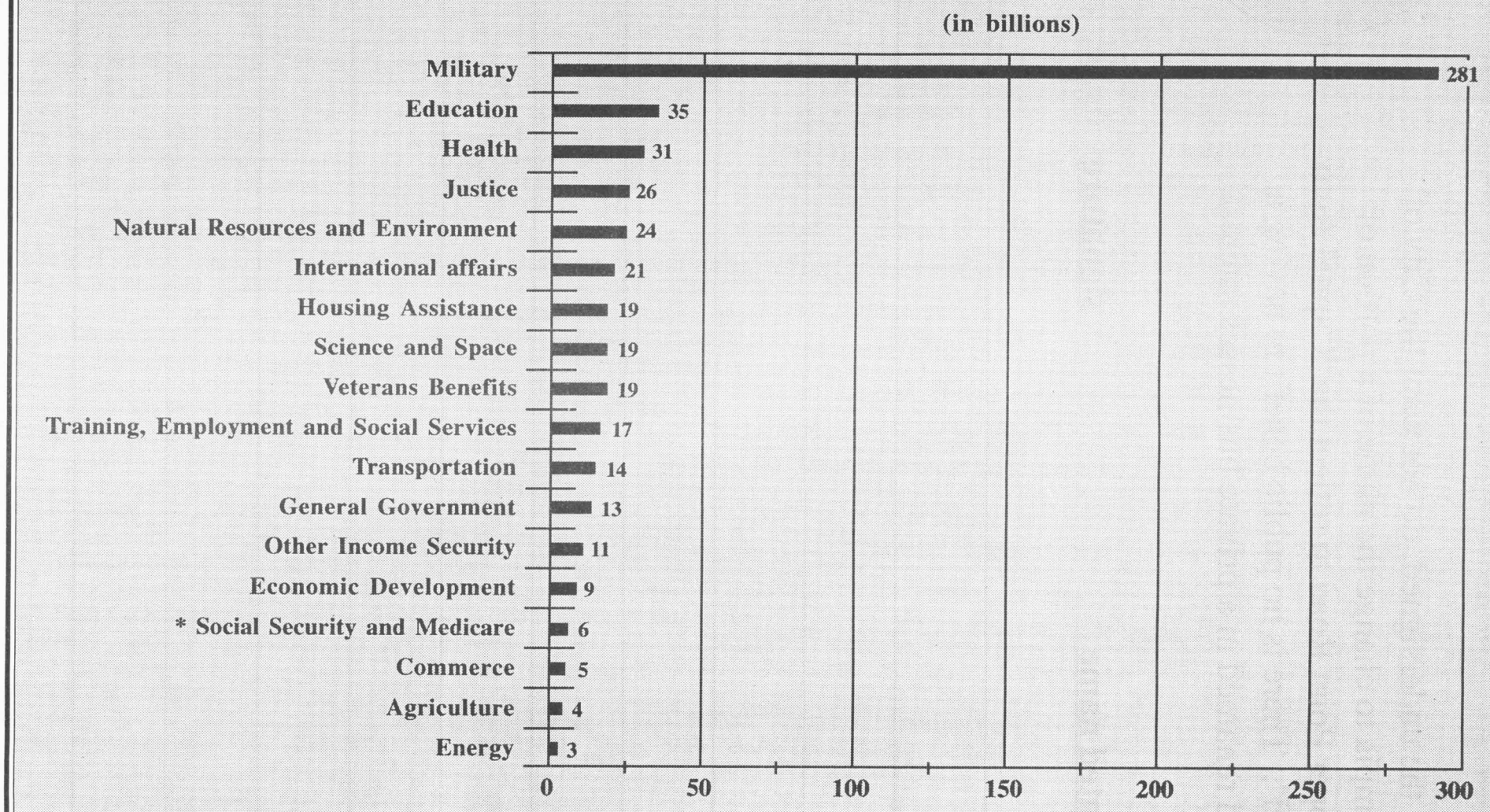
MAY 1999

President Clinton's Proposed 2000 Budget



* Discretionary funding for Social Security and Medicare covers various administrative costs and is not related to benefits mandated by law.

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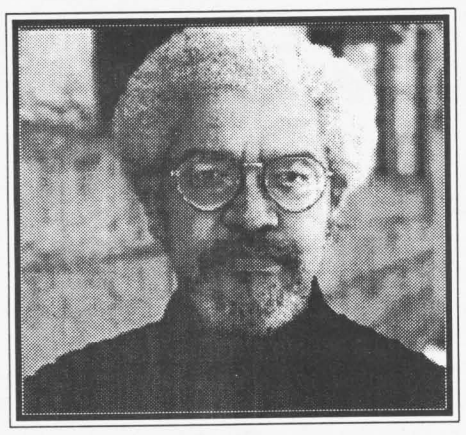
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Question: How much do we spend per person to keep U.S. forces in Bosnia? **Answer:** We currently spend $261,000 to support each of the 6,900 U.S. military personnel stationed in Bosnia, a total of $1.8 billion annually. Center for Defense Information				APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**1** **1998**: IRS says Americans are failing to pay $195 billion annually in taxes
2 **1997**: Red Wing Casino opens **1998**: WHO will try to wipe out polio by 2000	**3** **1998**: WSU party gets out of control; 23 police officers are injured and tear gas is used	**4** **1886**: Haymarket Square Riot **1970**: Kent State killings	**5** **1998**: Report states child poverty rate is 50 percent higher than it was 25 years ago	**6** **1998**: Elma school board allows man to speak on creationism in their school district	**7** **1913**: A Prudential Life statistician declares cancer a national menace	**8** **1958**: Vice-Pres. Nixon pelted with fruit, eggs, and stones in Lima, Peru
9 **1998**: 100+ Native Americans rally on WA capitol steps to protest Gorton's immunity bill	**10** **1998**: Feds ground older Boeing 737s after extensive wear in power lines found	**11** **1996**: ValuJet jetliner crashes in Everglades **1998**: India explodes a hydrogen bomb	**12** **1998**: WA state says fishing, pollution,loss of habitat threaten rockfish, cod, herring	**13** **1998**: WA state adopts emergency rules to protect salmon and steelhead	**14** **1909**: NY female teachers denied = pay **1961**: Freedom riders attacked in Alabama	**15** **1996**: 60 Witches gather at Capitol steps in Olympia to protest persecution
16 **1998**: NAACP announces plans to take a stand against Washington's I-200	**17** **1954**: Supreme Court rules racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional	**18** **1998**: Feds file suit against Microsoft **1998**: St Martin's to cut nursing program	**19** **1856**: Sen Charles Sumner gives his "Crime Against Kansas" speech	**20** **1996**: 200 at capitol steps protest inadequate funds to protect children from abuse	**21** **1998**: After Indonesia's economic crash and week of deadly rioting, Pres. Suharto resigns	**22** **1998**: Ireland passes a referendum in support of the April 10 peace accord
23 **1995**: Boeing announces it will be laying off an additional 5,000 workers	**24** **1854**: Anthony Burns (fugitive slave) arrested. 2,000 troops escort him thru Boston	**25** **1943**: Shipyard in Mobile, AL riots over the upgrading of African-american workers	**26** **1998**: Supreme Court rules police not responsible for injuries caused by high-speed chases	**27** **1998**: Intel says it will shut down its computer assembly factory, eliminating 650 jobs.	**28** **1915**: In Berlin, women demonstrate for peace **1998**: Pakistan detonates nuclear weapon	**29** **1998**: Japan announces record jobless rate of 4.1 due to decline in manufacturing
30 **1998**: Anti I-200 Rally in Sylvester Park **1998**: Twister destroys Spencer, in S Dakota	**31** **1955**: Supreme Court ordered school integration "with all deliberate speed"					

The nation is faced with the spectacle of the President requesting a massive $112 billion increase in military spending over the next six years only to find prominent members of Congress one-upping him by describing the President's increases as woefully inadequate. One would think the Soviet Union was back—and more threatening than ever.

Center for Defense Information

Along the Color Line

Our Morality Vs. Theirs



Dr. Manning Marable

Everybody these days seems to be talking about the lack of "morality" in public life and inside government. Conservative Republicans moan and groan that President Clinton's sexual misconduct brought "sinful behavior" into the White House. They are outraged that most Americans opposed Clinton's impeachment and removal from office. The whole sordid affair supposedly illustrates how far we as a nation have descended down the slippery slope of moral bankruptcy.

Groups like the Christian Coalition say that the lack of moral values in our public life is the chief reason that America's social fabric is coming apart. They argue that prayer in the schools is essential to instill moral values among children and young adults. A society where women have the right to terminate their pregnancies, where blacks and Latinos can be hired through affirmative action programs, and where protesters have the legal right to burn the American flag, is clearly a society in deep crisis.

Conservatives yearn for the "good old days": when the definition of "family" always meant a white, two-parent household, where dad went to work and mom stayed home; when gays and lesbians were locked in the closet; and where all the servants and maids were black, and they always served "with a smile."

It's time to challenge these right-wing hypocrites on the issue of "morality." Which is more immoral—Clinton's sexual escapades inside the White House, or the planning of military bombing raids in the same building, that may kill thousands of Third World people? What is worse—Clinton's lying in the Paula Jones suit, or his decision to sign the 1996 Welfare Act, that pushed a million women and children into poverty?

What we should be fighting for is a society where no barriers of race, gender, and class exist, and where all individuals are given the resources and opportunities to develop themselves to their fullest potential.

Let us make a critical distinction between what might be termed "religious morality" vs. "civic morality." People who adhere to different religions or denominations are guided by sets of moral principles, which influence individual behavior. The teachings of great spiritual figures, such as Jesus, Muhammed, Buddha, and others, give human beings a way for us to relate humanely toward each other.

I don't have a clue if Bill Clinton has any of these deeply-held, spiritual and moral values. Frankly, it's nobody's business what he believes spiritually. What we should care about is the president's sense of civic morality and social justice. In other words, how should the most oppressed and disadvantaged members of our society be treated by the government? What are the basic prerequisites to a decent, productive life that the government should guarantee for all people?

If we had a society that was truly committed to civic morality and public virtue, we would emphasize values such as charity, cooperation and forgiveness. We would promote tolerance, the acceptance of different points of view. We would encourage a spirit of fairness, and endeavor to create genuine opportunities for advancement for all members of society.

Our conservative opponents have a very different way of looking at the world. Instead of cooperation, they favor competition. Instead of diversity, they champion meritocracy. Instead of equality, they desire individual liberty. Instead of the commonwealth and the public's interests, they favor corporate and private interests.

In the practical world of politics, these two perspectives are reflected in two distinctly divergent public policies. To me, a civic morality should require all people to have basic human rights: a job or a guaranteed income for people who cannot work; free public education, from pre-kindergarten through college; affordable housing and shelter; and universal health service. America is wealthy enough and has the resources to make these commitments to its people. That we refuse to do so is our collective shame.

Politics is often defined as the "art of the possible." We are taught to accept "the lesser evil," rather committing ourselves to causes in which we deeply believe. We expect politicians to be crooks, and are therefore not surprised when they cheat and lie to us.

A modest proposal: let us begin to think about politics in a radically different way. What we should be fighting for is a society where no barriers of race, gender, and class exist, and where all individuals are given the resources and opportunities to develop themselves to their fullest potential.

The struggle for black freedom in American history has always been most powerful when we captured the moral high ground. It is never enough politically for us to say "what we are against." We have the moral obligation to affirm "what we are for." Our challenge is not to imitate the corrupt behaviors of those who have oppressed us. Let us instead imagine a new humanity.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge and regularly appears in over 325 black and progressive publications worldwide.

I Scream, You Scream

Who better epitomizes the caring side of ice cream than Ben & Jerry's? The colorful Vermont company, however, was recently accused of something less than sweet: union-busting.

In a National Labor Relations Board hearing last November, employees of Ben & Jerry's Homemade inc. sought permission to organize 19 maintenance workers in the company's St. Alban's, Vermont plant. Company lawyers argued that all 800 of Ben & Jerry's employees should participate in a union vote, according to the Boston herald. Most of the maintenance workers support organizing, while production workers, the overriding majority, have not overtly backed the formation of a union.

University of Massachusetts professor Paul Mishler is troubled by the insistence on a company-wide vote. "One of the ways management can thwart unionization is to say...'you have to represent workers who you have nothing to say to.'"

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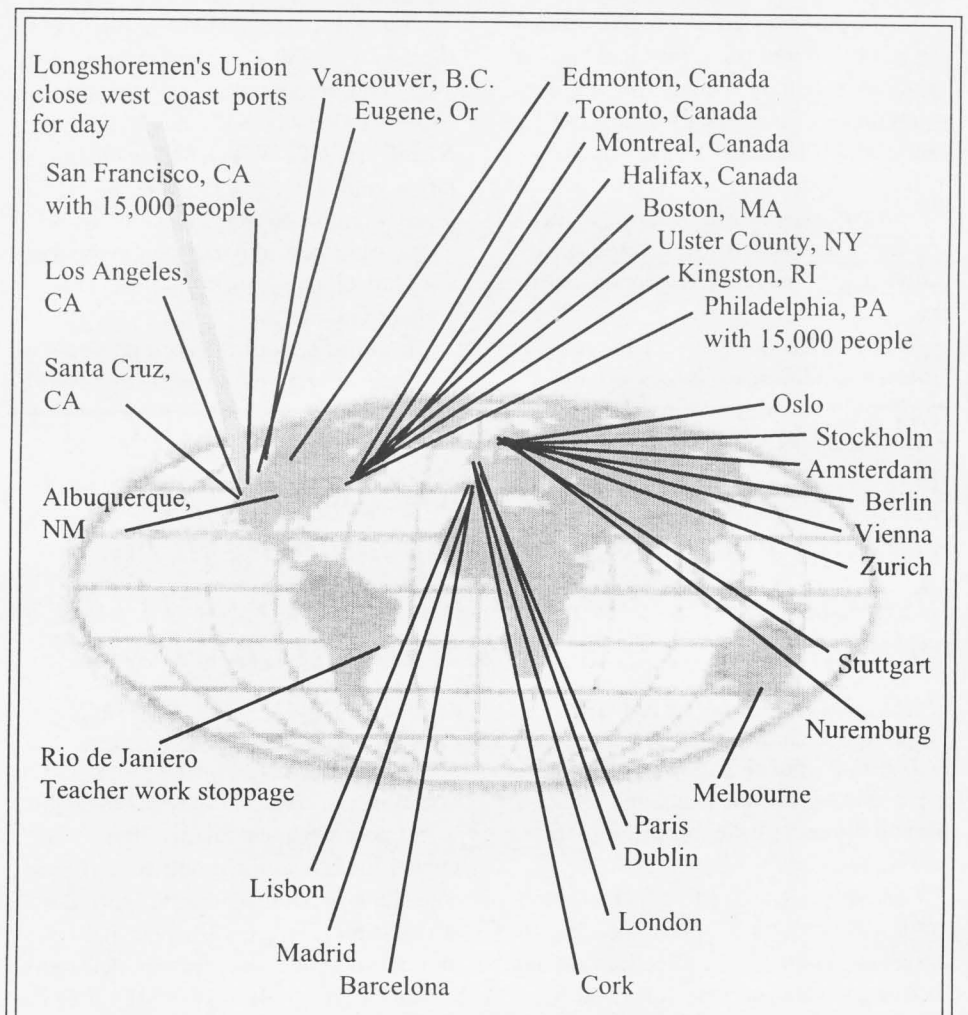
(Mumia, continued)

speaking -- It's as if the administration thinks we're doing Abu-Jamal a favor by allowing him to participate in our ceremony, instead of it being the other way around. We students invited Abu-Jamal to speak because we believe his presence will add vitality and richness to the ceremony, and we are honored that he has accepted. It is not just a matter of compensation, but of respect, that we offer our speakers payment for their time.

Some say, "Well, he's just too politically controversial. The institution can't give him money or else they'll be taking sides on the issues surrounding him." This is both wimpy and logically flawed. When TESC handed Sherman Alexie his speaker's fee, did they say, "Now, don't go giving any of this to charity!" What about bell hooks? Did we say, "We'll give you this money, but only if you promise to spend it on food and toiletries, not any of that African American feminist stuff you like to do." We have no right to question what our speakers do with that money. In my mind it's this simple: With or without the blustering by police and a portion of the public, if our institution can invite Mumia Abu-Jamal to speak at our ceremony, then we can show the respect of offering him a speaker's fee. And since Stephanie Coontz cannot be paid for speaking there is no shortage of funds for Abu-Jamal.

If you are a Greener, student or alumni, and you have a strong view about whether he should be given a fee, go ahead and let your voice be heard! Letters and phone calls do really make a difference in this situation. Jesse Welsh, the administrative head of the graduation planning committee, has been very responsive, and will probably do what the majority of people involved want. Call 866-6000, ask for his extension, and leave a message with his kind secretary. $

Millions For Mumia Around the World



NEXT MONTH:

MORE ON THE MILLIONS FOR MUMIA MARCH

Workplace Raids Challenged

Alejandro Reuss

For the last two years, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has rounded up undocumented immigrant workers at their worksites for deportation. Sweatshops multiply because of the INS raids, says the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants in New York, whose members—immigrant rights, labor rights, and Latin American solidarity groups—have been opposing the raids through protests and an anti-raid hotline (888-57-LUCHA).

Undocumented workers—particularly those working under sweatshop conditions—avoid complaining about workplace abuses and don't form unions for fear their employer will call the INS, have them detained, and possibly deported. This assault against undocumented immigrants, the Coalition argues, also undercuts the bargaining power of other vulnerable workers who compete against those suffering from illegal sweatshop conditions.

The INS first gained the power to raid workplaces in 1986. At that time, Congress also required that employers verify an employee's immigration status before hiring.

The coalition, along with 32 other organizations, has tracked the impact of 235 INS raids across the country to counteract the self-serving public declarations of the INS. This information is now available in a report by the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. The report tells a story of violence, intimidation, and employers' use of the INS to break up union organizing. For instance, five days after Staten Island laundry workers sent their employer a letter demanding $159,000 in unpaid wages, the INS raided the plant.

David Wilson of the New York Coalition relates his group's discovery that the INS singles out Mexican workers for roundup in the city. When asked why this was the case, an INS agent replied bluntly that it was cheaper to deport workers to Mexico than to almost any other country.

More than 150 labor, civil rights, religious and community groups are using the report to demand that the Department of Justice (which oversees the INS) stop the raids. NYC Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants, 212/254-2591; national Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 510/465-1984.

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MayDay!
South Sound Labor Party Organizing Benefit

Chris Stegman

On Saturday, May 1st, the Matrix Coffeehouse in downtown Chehalis will host an evening of music, dancing, rank and file speakers and merriment to benefit the newly formed South Sound Labor Party Organizing Committee.

The Matrix is co-owned by long time activists and new LP members Rick Straw and Holly St. Clair and is a popular political-cultural center in the Thurston-Lewis Counties area.

With the recruiting of twenty NEW members almost a done deal, together with the 10-12 "prior' members like myself, the South Sound Labor Party Organizing Committee is almost ready to begin its mission in earnest— - organizing a mass membership political movement and party to fight for the rights of ALL working people here at home and throughout the state, the nation and the world.

The Labor Party is a party like none other in this country with the radical idea that the working people who are the majority in our society should rule, not the wealthy corporate-political elites. It is a party intent on winning real power to enforce working peoples rights.

The party program and strategy are based upon the pressing current needs of vast majority of the American people as well as the long range needs for a just and sustainable economic and social order.

It's a party based upon the intrinsic organizations and principles that workers have painstakingly struggled to build and maintain in this country for the past 150 years, which are being forever challenged by corporate capitalism's forced march into the "brave' new world order now being termed "globalization' "free trade' "downsizing' "overseas relocation' and the like.

We in the Labor Party seek to create the broadest coalition of forces around the push to enact the full Labor Party program, one step at a time, one campaign at a time, one candidate at a time and we aim to do so nationwide.

Currently, we are getting ready to campaign for a statewide ballot initiative for Universal Health Care, called Health Care 2000, as part of our national Just Health Care campaign. We are allied with the Washington State Single Payer Action Network in this effort. Join us in making Washington State the first state to pass such an initiative!

Our members are also helping to build the STOP WTO! campaign around the WTO conference in Seattle planned from Nov. 30-Dec. 1st. We favor scrapping NAFTA, GATT, WTO, MAI et al. but our larger goal is the enactment of Fair Trade legislation that respects established international labor and environmental standards over rapacious business interests at home and abroad.

In addition, over the coming years we will be mounting campaigns for a Work-place Bill of Rights, for the protection of Social Security funds from Wall Street/gov't investment schemes and for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. constitution that will guarantee Jobs for All at a Living Wage (indexed at $10/hr. in 1996). We will oppose the bloated military "defense' budget and seek to redistribute the HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS of dollars presently being wasted on protecting corporate interests worldwide towards greatly expanded Public Works programs that can bring full employment at livable incomes to all American's and help to rebuild the world's economies on a just and sustainable basis. Now that's international worker solidarity in practice!

The Labor Party is a party like none other in this country with the radical idea that the working people who are the majority in our society should rule, not the wealthy corporate-political elites. It is a party intent on winning real power to enforce working peoples rights.

We are not the only ones fighting for these bold initiatives. But most single issue and "grass roots' organizing efforts lack any political clout and eventually fizzle out or are absorbed into the larger, more powerful institutions, such as the organized labor movement, which in turn are co-opted into the Democratic Party BECAUSE NO ALTERNATIVE HAS BEEN BUILT.

The renewed militancy within the ranks of organized labor, for instance, which has led to the election of a new progressive leadership enhances the possibility for a movement in the direction of creating a mass membership and independent progressive political party such as the Labor Party seeks to create. This possibility has not existed in this country for over 75 years.

John Sweeney, President of the 15 million strong AFL-CIO is, in fact, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America yet he says it is not the "right time' to call for an independent labor party. Rather, they plan to run 2000 union candidates in the year 2000, mostly on the Democratic Party ticket in an attempt to win back what they lost through 50 years of collaboration with that very same party!!! And that party is moving to the right in case you haven't noticed.

But the Labor Party is here and WE will fight for the support of all organized labor by remaining on an independent course, not collaborating with the corrupted political powers that be. Should the AFL-CIO leadership decide to break with their opportunist history and call for an independent political party we will join with them in that historic effort. And in the meantime WE ARE BUILDING IT from the ground up.

Join us in this historic effort! Come to the MayDay benefit at the Matrix coffeehouse in Chehalis. Become an organizer in your workplace and in your community, however you define it. Help us build the South Sound Chapter of the Labor Party. Forward to a statewide Labor Party organization by the end of this year!

For more information or to get involved: 705-3528 or cstegman@olywa.net $

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The bombing was a success:

Kosovo and its economy are in rubble;

Its people have fled the country

Would this be a victory even if the Serbian nationalists were not still in power? If they were defeated, how do we explain to the people that we did this for their good, their safety?

Who profits from all this?

Who suffers from it, pays for it?

We are killing ourselves again, this time it is in Kosovo.

The Year 2000 Bug in Kosovo

"The worst thing that could happen is if people panic,"
says the expert from the Gartner Group.
"Remove their money from the banks,
stockpile gasoline in their basements,
take to the streets in terrified mobs looking for an outlet.

"But there's no reason to lose trust.
We have a clear idea now of the nature of the disturbances
and where they will be localized.
In this country we'll all be just fine.
Our government will not allow the population to be at risk."

His voice, calm and fatherly, his stance, solid.
Lines of experience crinkle around his eyes
as he looks deeply at the American Psyche.
He even takes her hand, clutches it to his chest
so she can feel his heart beating.

The expert is boring.
Dull. Staid.
Wears tasteful suits in muted colors.
The American Psyche represses an urge
to bite him and make him bleed.

Instead she closes her eyes, disassociates
and plugs into the vision that does it for her.
Sees the stock market crash
Watches power plants shut down
Observes the telecommunications network grind to a halt.

***

Far away, on the other side of the world, it is night.
There are no streetlights, very few cars, and the people are hiding.
Four bombs just destroyed a bridge
that had spanned the Danube for a hundred and twenty years.
The bridge was famous for the birds that would nest beneath its eaves.

In the dark, it is very quiet after the air sirens stop.
In an apartment an old man holds an old woman
and smoothes her hair with his bent hand, slowly.
He whispers to her,
"Don't fear. Soon it will be over."

In Haiti, Somalia, Iraq, Panama
and now Yugoslavia
people have learned how to get by
when their country's infrastructure hangs in threads
and there's no knowing what will become necessary tomorrow.

They tell one another where the lines for milk are shortest
and which neighbors have a generator.
Women take turns watching the children.
When someone is very sick they pool medical coupons
to obtain antibiotics from the pharmacist who still has some.

There were no contingency plans.
And even if there had been, they would have done no good.
Men who were sons, husbands, fathers
would still have been blown apart by smart bombs.
A family cannot adequately prepare for that.

The survivalist in the forests of Montana
doesn't ask the people of Kosovo for tips on how to keep going
when the banks close and the taps run dry.
And the expert from the Gartner Group has no Iraqis on his staff.
Still, they sleep well at night.

They dream of American heroism in different forms.
One, in the wilderness with guns and canned food
the other, in conference rooms consulting with brilliance.
Either way, they never wake to lie exhausted in the dark
wondering how many people were on the bridge.

by Alice Zillah

Better Living Through Bombing?

Gar Lipow

Stop the bombing now. Cruise missile humanitarianism has multiplied the number of Kosovar Albanian homeless and dead, without saving one life, or stopping one atrocity. By highest estimates, the Kosovo civil war drove 400,000 ethnic Albanians from their homes in 1998; 30,000 of these fled Kosovo. The first two weeks of the bombing increased this to over one million homeless Kosovars; more than 400,000 of whom fled Kosovo. From March 26th through April 13th, NATO escalated the atrocities to double those in the whole year of 1998.

NATO bears the same responsibility a police officer does in a hostage situation – the responsibility not to get the hostages killed by charging at the kidnapper in a macho frenzy. The CIA and Pentagon both warned our government that it would provoke massacres before it dropped the first kind and cuddly bomb. Milosevic rose to power, in part, by stirring up Serbian nationalist sentiment over Kosovo.

Before our fighter jets flattened large portions of Serbia, Milosevic did not have everything his own way. There was a strong democratic opposition in Yugoslavia, and a strong opposition press. Milosevic was not in a position to completely ignore public opinion. It is far from sure that he could have escalated the level of atrocities.

The first bomb that came close to killing a Yugoslav child changed this. As would happen in the U.S. if bombs were falling on New York, Atlanta, Chicago and Seattle, Yugoslavians rallied 'round the flag. So long as NATO bombs fall on the suburbs and railways of Yugoslavia, there is no atrocity Milosevic can commit which will cost him popular support. War is freedom for tyrants.

In Kosovo, Serbia, and throughout Yugoslavia, NATO aims tenderhearted explosives at oil refineries, power plants, television stations, and office buildings – and quite often misses. It has admitted to unintentionally bombing residential suburbs, civilian factories, a passenger rail car, and part of a convoy of Albanian refugees. Pilots of British Harriers, tired of frequent misses, have turned to cluster bombs, which spray humanitarian shrapnel over a wide area.

In spite of claims to surgical precision, this amounts to indiscriminate terror bombing. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH) who initially supported the bombing now opposes it for just this reason.

In the April 9, 1999 *New York Times* he writes: "... the destruction of the civilian infrastructure of Yugoslavia has become part of the strategy to end the war on Kosovo... We are bringing down terror on the Serbian people ... the Serbian people will never accept a peace with the ethnic Albanians as long as we are dropping bombs on their heads...."

This war threatens more than the population of former Yugoslavia. It threatens the stability of the entire region. Albania, perhaps the poorest country in Europe is overwhelmed by the refugee influx. Macedonia, which already has a strong Albanian minority, fears becoming another Kosovo. As of this writing, the Yugoslav military had crossed an international border to take over a small Albanian village. The Balkans were historically flashpoints for major wars, because major powers got involved in local disputes.

Well, we had to do something didn't we?

Actually we didn't. In our own lives, when confronted by a problem, how many of us would choose making things worse as an alternative to doing nothing?

But, in fact, there were alternatives. The *New York Times* of April 8, 1999, writing of the failed Rambouillet negotiations said "In a little-noted resolution of the Serbian Parliament just before the bombing, when that hardly independent body rejected NATO troops in Kosovo, it also supported the idea of U.N. forces to monitor a political settlement there." Milosevic had accepted most U.S. demands during Rambouillet negotiations *except NATO monitors.* If he was willing to accept *U.N. monitors* instead, should we not have explored the possibility before we began bombing?

The U.S. may be the best place it the world to live, but people outside the U.S. would just as soon not have us involved in their civil wars. Most of the world winces when it hears the U.S. is about to take action.

There still are alternatives. Stop the bombing. Forget ground troops. Start real negotiations. Involve the U.N., and what remains of the democratic Yugoslav opposition. Some armed third party will probably be needed to enforce whatever solution is agreed to, and protect all groups in Kosovo from ethnic cleansing. But both sides of the conflict must agree to such enforcers. We could also provide more aid to the refugees, actually give them refuge if needed. We should also remember that the Yugoslav army currently enforces the death penalty for avoiding service in their military, and offer refuge to Serb draft resistors and deserters.

Some people, admitting that bombing is useless, are supporting ground troops instead. A strong U.S. force on the ground will make everything all right. After all, even if we made a well-meaning blunder in this case (no doubt dragged into the situation by our NATO allies), doesn't the U.S. generally do the right thing in foreign policy?

Well, no it doesn't.

The idea that we were "dragged into this" by NATO is wrong to begin with. In the context of this war, the U.S. is NATO. Other NATO countries provide bases, and some of the military force. But the U.S. leads NATO. The U.S has made essentially all the decisions, both military and diplomatic.

The U.S. may be the best place it the world to live, but people outside the U.S. would just as soon not have us involved in their civil wars. Most of the world winces when it hears the U.S. is about to take action.

Our humanitarian sanctions against Saddam Hussein manage to kill about 5,000 Iraqi children each month. We've been bombing Iraq for years; no doubt the Iraq government will fall any day now.

In retaliation for terrorist bombing of U.S. embassies in Africa, we managed to bomb a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan responsible for producing most of Sudan's prescription drugs. At the time, we claimed it was partially owned by Bin Laden and helped produce nerve gas. It later turn out that Bin Laden had no ownership stake in the plant (direct or indirect) and the chemicals we thought to be a nerve gas precursor were actually used in the making of beneficial drugs. Oops! Sorry 'bout that!

Recent humanitarian catastrophes in which we did not intervene include: 80,000 dead in Algeria, 10,000 dead in the Ethiopian-Eritrean war within the past month, 820,000 dead in Rwanda during the last five years, 1.5 million dead in Sudan during the last 15 years.

Worse, we ignore atrocities by our client states, states we could simply order to stop the killing. NATO member Turkey has killed more than 40,000 Kurds (the same ethnic group we are bombing in Iraq, as you read this) using weapons it bought from the U.S.

East Timor was an independent country until Indonesia took it over in 1975, killing 200,000 people (more than 1/3rd of the population). Indonesia launched the invasion hours after President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger met with Indonesian dictator Suharto. The U.S. then doubled military aid to Indonesia, blocked the UN from taking effective enforcement action, and continued to sell new weapons, particularly helicopters for the next two decades. Since 1975, the United States has sold more than $1.1 billion worth of weaponry to Indonesia. The latest massacre in East Timor took place a few days ago, when paramilitaries armed by the Indonesian government slaughtered a church full of refugees.

In short, given the U.S. record, there is no reason to expect a ground force invasion will have superior results to our current policy of better living through bombing. Negotiations are not glamorous. Rambo would have single handedly ended the war. John Wayne would have taken along some sidekicks. But in the real world, negotiations are the only way to save the lives of the Kosovar Albanians – especially if we decide that the occasional Serbian life has value as well. $

Protest Vigil

Every Friday until the bombings stop

4:30pm

Percival Landing
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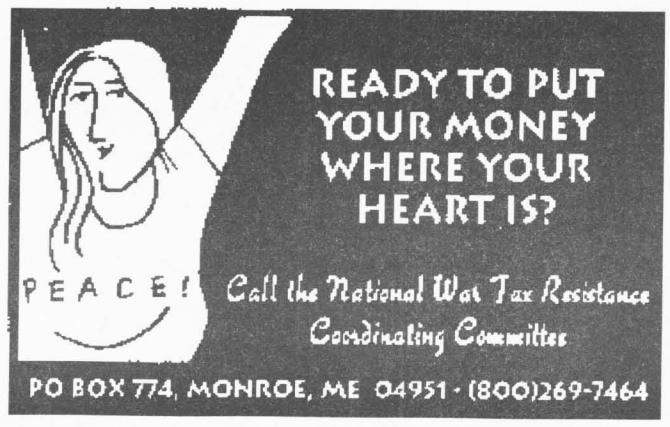
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Call the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee
PO BOX 774, MONROE, ME 04951 - (800)269-7464

Mumia condemns war in Yugoslavia

As a deadly rain of high-tech bombs falls on Yugoslavia, a deadening rain of propaganda falls on Americans, media-manipulated lies designed to prime the populace into supporting harsher military measures against a sovereign nation, in the name of protecting human rights.

NATO is but a fig leaf for American "interests," and the bombing of Yugoslavia is but a global demonstration of the ruthlessness of the American empire. A demonstration? The monstrous atomic bombing of Japan, after it was virtually beaten in World War II, was not a military necessity, but a political one, designed to demonstrate to the Russians that the U.S. was, and would ever be, boss. It was a massive, deadly demonstration.

So too, the Yugoslavia bombing treats Serbs as the U.S. treated Japanese during the war—as props to demonstrate the power of the empire.

Let us consider the claims that the U.S. is concerned about "human rights" or about the "rights of ethnic minorities," as the corporate press projects hourly. What of America's largest national minority—African Americans? The world-respected Amnesty International group, speaking through its secretary general, Pierre Sane, announced just days before the bombing, "Human-rights violations in the United States of America are persistent, widespread and appear to disproportionately affect people of racial or ethnic minority backgrounds."

Sane was critical of police violence and executions in the U.S. Further, internationally, let's see how the U.S. responds to "liberation movements" of the oppressed. When fighters for Puerto Rican independence began to raise their voices, the U.S. didn't support this "ethnic minority," they sought (and continue) to crush, incarcerate and silence them.

Consider the case of the Palestinians, the Kurds, the East Timorese, the Colombian rebels—who has the U.S. consistently supported, the oppressed or the U.S.-armed governments?

This isn't about "human rights." It isn't about "ethnic minorities." And it also isn't about "genocide." It's about establishing who's "boss" in the next century. It's about keeping Russia in its place. It's about keeping the European Union under the thumb of Wall Street.

The bombing of Serbia is an echo of the bombing of three other countries in the past six months—of Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan. And for precisely the same reason—to show that it can be done, no matter what so-called "international law" states. It is to instill terror throughout the world, in order for U.S. capital to institute what former president George Bush tried to do, but failed: to establish a New World Order.

Days before the bombing, NATO signed up Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) as its newest members, thereby virtually isolating Russia. Only Serbia and the Yugoslav states have refused to join NATO—their bombing is their punishment.

Our brilliant, revered nationalist leader, Malcolm X, taught us to examine history. If we look at history, the bombing of Yugoslavia becomes clear.

Empires are maintained, not by reason, but by ruthless terror. It was so in Rome. It is so in the U.S. The brilliant revolutionary, Dr. Huey P. Newton, founder of the Black Panther Party, explained, "The United States was no longer a nation. We called it an empire. An empire is a nation-state that has transformed itself into a power controlling all the world's lands and people." (1973)

Huey was right then, and our response then was to oppose the empire. We must do that now.

Down with imperialism! Stop the bombing! NATO/U.S. out of Yugoslavia!

(1914, continued)

I'm worried that the opposite may well be true. The parallels to 1914 are eerie:

1) Serbia is again the fount of the trouble.

2) As in 1914, Serbia is allied with a weak but proud Russia.

3) As in 1914, an alliance of Western countries opposes Serbia. Many analysts—all of them more educated and richer than me—say that Russia won't do more than give moral support to the Yugoslavians because they need Western financing too badly. I hope they're right.

I'm not so sure. I keep thinking about how the West treated Russia so condescendingly after the Cold War while forcing a socio-economic makeover too soon, too intensely on the country. There are still howls of outrage from Washington and London whenever Russia pursues its own foreign policy instead of following the West's agenda, such as in Iraq. I think it's a terrible mistake to assume that the Russians want Western financing so badly that they'll accept anything NATO and the US mandate, whether in Iraq, Yugoslavia or elsewhere, and to dismiss their concerns as bluster for domestic Russian consumption. We'd better remember the tragic lesson learned from Weimar Germany: Never kick a nation when they're down.

Finally, I must question just how much of a Master Plan NATO has. When the bombing started, NATO apparently assumed that Milosevic would back down fast (like Saddam) and return to the negotiating table. That's why NATO was unprepared for the floods of refugees. That's why NATO leaders never made the effort to create public support for a war within their respective nations. But after a month of daily and nightly air strikes, Milosevic is holding firm. Now NATO is stuck in a quandary: an all-out war would require full mobilization and public support, neither of which are feasible before the fall, which is the latest any ground forces could be deployed in order for a spring offensive. Even with agreement among all NATO countries—which doesn't exist now—deploying ground troops to fight on the KLA's side in a civil war would be a bad mistake. Let's remember, the KLA STARTED this fight. When Milosevic took away Kosovo's autonomy last year, the hotheads in the KLA—who do not represent all Kosovars—got militant and began an insurgency without even a consensus among the Kosovar people, let alone international support. Milosevic and his security forces responded with their trademark brutality, the KLA howled for help, and pictures of refugees began appearing on American TV screens.

American opinion is divided, and a national debate is underway. On one side are the rescuers, who see the refugees and want to help them. On another side are the internationalists, who believe that NATO military power to help the Kosovars is a natural extension of the Cold War mission to Stop the Bad Guys. Some, most notably Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) opposed the war at first but now feel that since we're in it we oughtta win it, no holds barred. The isolationists are divided into subgroups. Some of them don't want Americans fighting a foreign civil war where there are no good guys. Others are frustrated Clinton haters who are against his policy just because it's his. They howl for him to Do Something, then condemn him because he's doing it. Still others are frustrated with "allies" and want this to be a private US/Yugoslavia war so we can kick their ass in peace, without being bothered with consultation.

NATO opinion is also divided. The US and British are the hawks. The Germans and French are nervous but on board. The Greeks, who have to live in the neighborhood after the war, are pushing for a comprehensive political settlement for a long-term regional peace. The Hungarians, new to NATO, flatly oppose ground troops. There is a significant Hungarian minority in Serbia, most of whom—more than 300,000—live in northern Serbia near the border with Hungary. The Hungarians are rightly concerned that if they become actively involved in the war, Milosevic will start ethnically cleansing them, and Hungary will have its own refugee crisis, if not worse. In my view, the Greeks have the best idea.

In Burundi, ethnic violence resumes, killing hundreds.

In Mexico, Pres. Zedillo (for once) chooses negotiation with the Zapatistas.

In Brussels and Washington, NATO planners prepare for a naval blockade of Yugoslavia and a ground campaign.

In Littleton, a community grieves.

In Spokane, the FBI assists local agencies investigating crossburnings.

And in Olympia, the rites of spring: ArtsWalk, Cinco de Mayo, and weekend yard work, even as teachers rally at the Capitol for a living wage. $

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NO WAR

Protesters Arrested by Sen. Bernie Sanders

by Ron Jacobs

Yesterday, April 26, 1999, a rally and march were held in Burlington, Vermont, USA against the U.S. war on Yugoslavia. Approximately 100 people (primarily college and high school students with a few faculty and local citizens sprinkled about—including vetran activist David Dellinger) attended the 45 minute rally at the University of Vermont campus and then marched down Main Street. The destinations of the march were the local offices of Vermont three congressional members: Senators Leahy (Dem.) and Jeffords (Rep.), and Rep. Bernie Sanders. The purpose of these visits was to present petitions calling for "an immediate end to the bombing, a return to the negotiating tableà and no introduction of NATO ground forces to the conflict". The 1,000 signatures on these petitions were collected in a little over two weeks time.

At Senator Leahy's office, a small delegation of demonstrators went into the office, presented the petitions and were served cookies. At Senator Jeffords' office, the delegation that went inside, asked for and received a conference call with Mr. Jeffords' foreign policy advisor in Washington, D.C.. From there, we headed to Bernie Sanders' office at the top of Burlington's downtown pedestrian mall (Church Street). Once we arrived at the office building , the remaining protestors (approximately 30 in all) headed inside and up the stairs to Sanders' office. We were met by his staff who presented us with a written statement by Mr. Sanders concerning his support of the bombing. Those present read the statement and then asked a member of the staff if we could hold a conference call with Bernie and give him a chance to justify his position. We were told this was not possible because Sanders was on a plane to Washington, D.C. and he did not own a cell phone. So we sat down and informed the staff that we would wait until we could speak with Sanders.

Seattle musician Jim Page happened to be in Burlington this week and had accompanied us on the march. While we sat in the office, he played guitar and sang songs in between discussions about the war, the killings in Littleton, CO., the arrogance of liberals in power and numerous other subjects took place. As time passed, it became clear that Bernie had no intention of talking to us. After conversations out of our earshot, the primary staffperson informed us that we could meet with Bernie next Tuesday if we made an appointment. This suggestion was rejected out of hand; the reasoning being that hundreds more would die in the interim. Time ticked on.

Around 5:30 PM, we were asked again if we wanted to accept the meeting with Bernie next Tuesday. We agreed to the meeting but also insisted on speaking with Sanders that day. Furthermore, we affirmed that we would not leave the office until we spoke with Bernie that evening. We were than told that our choice was to either leave then and meet with Sanders next week or stay until we were removed and not meet with the congressmen at all. At 6:00 PM or so, we were asked once again if we would assent to this arrangement. Once again we said no. At 6:45 PM, Burlington police officers began arresting those protestors who refused to leave when asked. This was done at the request of Congressman Sanders and his staff. The arrests were conducted in an orderly fashion and all were released later in the evening.

This was the first time Sanders office had ever been occupied. One has to wonder if it will be the last, given his continual drift rightward. $

What's wrong with U.S. Health Care?

Laura McClure

Our healthcare system is the best in the world - for people with lots of money. But for just about everyone else, the system leaves much to be desired. When you step back and compare our healthcare system to that of other industrialized nations, we're at the bottom. Of course the United States healthcare system produces many great practitioners and fabulous medical breakthroughs. But overall, it delivers poorer care to fewer people for more money than any other.

What's wrong with U.S. healthcare?

1. Over forty-three million people - 16 percent of the American people - are uninsured.

The number keeps going up - it's now the highest it's been since the mid-sixties, when Medicare and Medicaid were passed. Children make up about a quarter of the uninsured. Three out of four of the adults who are uninsured or were uninsured recently are in working families, according to a survey by the Commonwealth Fund.

Not only is this inhumane, it ultimately hurts all of us. The uninsured go without needed care until their condition reaches the point of an expensive emergency. And in the end, we all absorb the cost. As long as insurance is tied to employment, a high percentage of Americans will go without coverage.

2. Many who are insured have inadequate coverage and big out-of-pocket expenses.

Under our system, insurance companies have every reason to limit our care and increase our co-payments and deductibles. HMOs are famous for refusing to cover necessary hospital stays, denying people coverage for emergency room visits, and balking at medically necessary procedures and therapies. In 1996, over 20 percent of HMO enrollees said they had problems getting treatment; less than half think their HMO would cover a serious illness.

For this lousy service, we are paying more and more out of our pockets. Between 1988 and 1996, the share of healthcare premiums paid by employees in small firms went from $408 to $2100 a year for family coverage. Seniors who are covered by Medicare are in the same boat: In 1977 they paid about 12 percent of their income in out-of-pocket health costs. In 1994, they had to devote 23 percent of their income to healthcare.

3. The so-called "managed care" revolution of the past decade has been a disaster.

Managed care and HMOs turned out not to be the solution to our healthcare problems. They're only making it worse. As recently as 1995, 59 percent of Americans thought managed care was "a good thing," according to a Harris poll. By 1997, it was down to 44 percent. Only 33 percent thought managed care improves the quality of healthcare.

The government has been pushing hard to get Medicaid and Medicare enrollees into HMOs. But HMOs try to skim off the healthiest of these patients, and underserve those who do sign up. Medicare enrollees who have a fee for service plan report far better access to care than those in HMOs. That's because HMOs only get a fixed premium from Medicare to provide care - and so they provide as little care as possible. Now, many HMOs across the country, having discovered that they couldn't make as much money off the elderly and disabled as they had hoped, are abandoning Medicare and Medicaid patients.

4. Our healthcare system wastes money on profits and administration.

up by both for-profit and non-profit conglomerates. These giant institutions lack direct accountability to the public. And in hot pursuit of their bottom line, they systematically cut patient care and slash staff.

5. Our healthcare system pits caregivers against patients.

The conglomerates that control our healthcare system put pressure on doctors to hold back on care they know their patients need. They force nurses to take part in strategies aimed at getting patients out of hospital beds before they are ready. Our system should allow healthcare providers to concentrate on our care, not on profit margins.

Just Health Care

I hate my HMO...

There are so many reasons. Most recently, my HMO tried to ruin my summer vacation. I confess it was foolish to rush across a plank deck with no shoes on. The splinter was huge, but a friend got it out, no big deal. A few days later, though, while I was still on vacation, my foot started showing signs of infection. I decided to make a visit to the local emergency room.

But not before a morning-long string of long distance conversations with my HMO, followed by an urgent call to my "primary physician" in an effort to get her referral to the emergency room. My doctor, an oncologist, was probably in the middle of a consultation with a breast cancer patient when she took my call. When I told her my pathetic little story, she gave a world-weary sigh and immediately authorized the visit.

The problem is, my HMO is driven by a passion for something, and it isn't my well-being. It's profit.

For all our complaints about coverage and accessibility, we pay almost twice as much per capita on healthcare in this country than anywhere else. And the cost is still rising faster than anywhere else. Prescription drug costs are expected to rise over 13 percent this year. And the Congressional Budget Office predicts premiums will go up 5.5 percent this year. In California, where HMOs dominate the market, premium increases are in the double digits.

The Department of Health and Human Services has just come out with an estimate that by 2007, healthcare will absorb 16.6 percent of the nation's total output (or gross domestic product) - up from 13.6 percent last year. For comparison: In Canada, it's about 9 percent. And everyone's covered.

Spending money on healthcare is a fine social goal. But one of the main reasons our system is so expensive is that it has to support profit-hungry HMOs. Do we really want our healthcare dollars to be spent on insurance processing and profits? At US Healthcare, for instance, 26 percent of each premium dollar goes to overhead and profit. This is the same HMO that takes the prize for CEO compensation: US Healthcare's top executive has a $1 billion golden parachute!

Meanwhile, we are losing public hospitals at an alarming rate as they are bought

Then it was more calls to the HMO.

Finally I made it to the emergency room, where everyone was very nice. I spent a half hour filling out forms and about four minutes with a physician's assistant, who prescribed an antibiotic. The next day, I got a surprise call from the HMO. They wanted to know exactly what had happened at the emergency room.

One splinter. Five minutes oncologist time. Four minutes physician's assistant time. Thirty minutes emergency room administrative staff time. Two hours HMO administrative staff time. Not to mention the follow-up paperwork. I just hope I don't end up with a bill. But I might.

The problem is, my HMO is driven by a passion for something, and it isn't my well-being. It's profit.

IF ONLY I WAS A CANADIAN

If only I were Canadian. Then, my story would go something like this: Stupidly dash across the deck with no shoes on. Drive to the emergency room. Show my national healthcare card. See the physician. Get the antibiotics. Go home.

I tell this trivial story because I'm the kind of person that our healthcare system is supposed to work for: the healthy insured. The horror stories about what happens to people who are uninsured or who have serious illnesses or injuries are countless. I could have talked about my mother-in-law, who got Alzheimers, fell between the Medicare cracks and died leaving a half million dollar medical bill. Or my husband, who is currently caught in the surreal world of Workers Comp, where the money, if it ever shows up, shows up two years too late. And that's just in one small family. Our piecemeal, for-profit healthcare system is sick, and everyone knows it. And yet, almost no one is pushing for the real cure. The current fashion is incremental reforms. Last year, for instance, Congress passed a new program to finance healthcare for some uninsured children. Now the Democrats and Republicans are pushing competing versions of bills to make it harder for HMOs to deprive people of needed care.

Fine. But none of these reforms address the underlying problem: A healthcare system that is driven by giant insurance conglomerates, supplemented by an inadequate patchwork of public programs that segments the population into unequal fragments, rich and poor, healthy and sick, young and old, employed and unemployed. There's no real solution short of creating one unitary publicly funded system that treats everyone the same - that is, fabulously. And remarkably, the experience of other countries tells us this kind of system would actually be cheaper than the sick one we have now. Four years ago, there was a movement to win this kind of healthcare system, called single-payer (meaning, there is only one payer of medical bills: the federal government). That movement was undermined in part by President Clinton, who, instead of pressing for the simple, single-payer plan, came up with a reform plan that added even more bureaucracy to the system without addressing the system's most fundamental flaws.

Do we really have to resign ourselves to patching up a system that is among the least effective and most expensive in the industrialized world?

The Labor Party says no. Our healthcare plank, adopted by the delegates at our founding convention, is clear and bold. There's a political vacuum out there that we would like to fill. While others are spending their energies on incremental reforms, we want to spearhead a new movement for the real thing. The Labor Party is set to launch a major national campaign to reignite the fight for "Just Healthcare." We're talking about a healthcare system in which:

1. private insurance companies have no role
2. benefits are guaranteed
3. no one has to pay bills or out of pocket expenses
4. everyone gets full family coverage
5. access to healthcare doesn't depend on your job

Laura McClure is with the Labor Party of America Committee for Just Health Care. $

How much do HMO executives make?

CEO (1996-97)	Pay/Stockholdings
Malik Hassan	$17.2m / $166.4m
Foundation-William McGuire	$14.7m / $74.7m
United-Leonard Shaeffer	$14.2m / $16.5m
Wellpoint-David Jones	$10.5m / $223.4m
Humana-George Jochum	$5.0m / $16.9m
MAMSI-Alan Hoops	$4.7m / $26.9m
Pacificare-Stephen Wiggins	$4.6m / $230.4m
Oxford-Larry House	$2.5m / $108.5m

MedPartners Source: Managed Healthcare Report 1/31/97 and 7/15/97

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Prenatal Health Care Services in Guatemala

Amy Levinson

Accepted for publication, 50th Anniversary issue of Midwifery Today

Background and General Indicators

Though relatively small, Guatemala is Central America's third largest country. Its population of 10 million people makes it more inhabited by 2 million than New York City. Guatemala has seen brutal civil war with its attendant scourge of disease and poverty, starting about 36 years ago at the hands of military dictatorships propped up by wealthy landowners, as well as international corporate and political interests. The resultant scorched-earth tactics and brutal oppression wreaked upon the population, of whom over 41 percent are indigenous and live rurally, has included widespread agrarian dispossession leading to great disparity in land ownership. The country has the highest concentrated wealth, in the fewest hands, in all of the Americas. Guatemala has one of the lowest taxation rates in the world, and with over 50 percent of government spending in the last 30 years on and off given to boost the military's counterinsurgency regime, basic services, including funding of maternal health care services, have been severely neglected. Social and fiscal policy makers must start to address the myriad problems that exist in the war-torn urban and rural sectors, such as crumbling infrastructure and non-existent social services, at the same time that they start planning appropriate health care programs, including maternal care services.

In 1996, peace was tentatively reached with the signing of the Peace Accords between the military and left-wing guerrilla movements. When all was said and done, over 200,000 Guatemaltecans, mostly the indigenous poor, had been systematically tortured and killed or disappeared. Though the Peace Accords address issues such as health care and indigenous rights, basic health indicators remain dismal with the country-wide lack of potable water, poor access to basic health services, untrained medical providers, and the lack of planning and moneys budgeted at the local level to alleviate communities in need.

Mothers and Infants in Peril

In Guatemala, out of a population of 10,721,000, the maternal mortality rate hovers at 249 deaths per 100,000 women, making it the third leading cause of death in that country (Center for International Health Information, CIHI, 1/96). Comparatively, Northern Europe has a maternal mortality rate of 0-11 deaths per 100,000 live births (World Health Organization, 1998).

Guatemala has one of the highest disparities of wealth and poverty in the world. With over 80 percent of the population considered poor, only 15 percent of the mostly rural population have access to basic health services (Jonas, pg. 2). In the 1940's, president Juan Jose Arevelo established Guatemala's nationalized health care system, the Guatemalan Social Security Institute, (IGSS). Forty six percent of the total population lack this basic coverage, some due to illiteracy (44 % of the total population) and inability to deal with the bureaucracy of the system (CIHI, 1996), many more due to an overall legitimate fear of government. Employers who have more than 10 employees pay into this system, yet choices for care are limited to IGSS facilities (Interview, Ramon Penuel, 1998). The informal employment sector in Guatemala includes a large amount of women who make their living as street vendors and laborers and this segment is largely left out from health coverage.

The condition of women in Guatemala, after years of political and economic dislocation, and from within a male-dominated society, has much to do with the kind of health care funded by the public sector. Women, especially the indigenous, are subject to extreme economic exploitation and have few of the even scant right accorded males who may be valued for their labor. In Guatemala's predominantly fundamentally religious population, there is a lack of support and funding for programs that address birth control and other women's health issues. Only 25 percent of women, aged 15-44, use contraception regularly, with anecdotal tales abounding about the ease of breakage of condoms in that country (CIHI).

Education and Exploitation

The wealthy control the entire economy, with the majority of citizens residing in either urban squalor or rural villages. Most of these residences lack plumbing, water, garbage and other basic public sector services, and, in isolated villages in the Guatemala highlands, electricity. With one of the highest indigenous populations in the Americas, Guatemalan Indians have a history of colonial exploitation dating back five hundred years. Used as slaves for the conquering Spaniards, and exploited little better today by powerful coffee and banana plantation owners, efforts at raising the living standards of the indigenous poor have been met with brutal resistance in the form of killings and tortures of union leaders, entire rural villages and the mass relocation of whole villages to military controlled installations called 'model villages'.

Though the Peace Accords address issues such as health care and indigenous rights, basic health indicators remain dismal country-wide

Language usage supports the upper classes in Guatemala, with Spanish speaking citizens primarily located within the urban dwelling middle and upper classes. Of the indigenous children who speak some of the 21 Mayan languages, only 23 percent attend school past the primary levels because of the lack of bilingual education (Guatemala, La Ruta Maya, Brosnahan, Keller, 1997). Fortunately, since 1996, bilingual education has increased because the Peace Accords address this primary right to be taught in one's own language.

Types of Maternal Health Care Services

Because of the condition of women and indigenous populations and the repression by the military during the last 36 years, suspicion and fear of the government is rampant, limiting access to public sector health care services. Furthermore, for the traditional women living in rural villages, it is considered a scandal for women to give birth in a hospital (I, Rigoberta Menchu, Rigoberta Menchu, 1984). These types of conditions limit access to basic services, as well as other factors, which include lack of transportation, no money to pay providers and general illiteracy.

There are private hospitals and clinics that are used mostly by the better off of the Ladino (non-indigenous) population. The public hospitals used by IGSS recipients are located within larger towns and villages. In the rural areas, smaller towns, and even in large urban areas, midwifery care is also available at two levels, skilled and unskilled midwives whom offer varying degrees of obstetrical service. Utilization of these midwifery services is almost universal in the Highlands, where the majority of the population of Guatemala lives. Medical providers receive varying degrees of informal and formal training. Doctors study for six years post high school. Skilled midwifes attend Ministry of Health training and may take first aid or other nursing skills classes. Sometimes, these midwives are aligned with the local doctor's clinic and may receive further experiential training, as well as medical supplies (Interview, anonymous midwife, San Pedro LaLaguna, 1998).

Untrained midwifes operate in many rural villages, as well as urban centers. Training is usually passed down orally, and can include the numerous religious and social conventions and traditions that range from beneficial to harmful in traditional birth practices. In my interviews, midwives were fearful of telling their stories and may have exaggerated the frequency of usage of modern medical protocol, such as the utilization of gloves.

Frequency of prenatal care

According to official reports, 73 percent of women have at least one prenatal visit, compared to over 90 percent in the United States and other developed countries. Unofficial figures put this number much lower. Seventy five percent of women in Guatemala deliver with skilled attendants, ranging from doctors to skilled midwives with some academic nursing skills. These trained midwives are mainly located within the urban center of Guatemala City, which has a ratio of health professionals double the national average at 4-10,000 (WHO, 1996).

In my interviews with rural midwives, three prenatal visits during pregnancy was the norm. At a private clinic, I talked with a doctor whose schedule of prenatal care visits was similar to the US, once a month for the first seven months, twice during the eight month and every week in the last month of the pregnancy (Interview, Dr. Angel Diaz, 1998).

Cost of Maternal Health Care Services

IGSS-covered citizens receive free health care in the crowded public hospitals. Some rural clinics, such as the Centro de Salud in San Pedro, a city of 12,000 offers office visits for a cheap 25 centavos, while, more commonly, other doctors in town charge 10 quetzals, 6.4 quetzals being equivalent to one US dollar. Private hospitals may run Q100 for an office visit, with medicines running about Q100, obviously depending on what type. Some providers also dispense some form of birth control, included in the visit, the most common type are birth control pills, though other methods have gained popularity over the years, including the IUD and diaphragm (Interviews, villagers of San Pedro, 1998).

Common practices and problems

Severe bleeding is the leading cause of maternal mortality in the world, a condition in which the causal factors could include: lack of basic quality care, lack of money to pay for services, poor nutritional status, and access barriers, such as distance to hospitals. In a group of selected areas under research by the World Health Organization, Guatemala had the highest percentage of women living more than 5 km from a hospital, 97 percent of the total population. 41 percent of women lived more than 5 km from any type of basic health facility, ranking it near the bottom out of 9 developing countries. This appalling lack of access is a problem that not only has to do with lack of government funding for proper infrastructure such as roads, but also sprouts from the history of oppression of the indigenous and rural population with policies that have economically isolated communities so that no investment into local planning and local solutions occurs. This may be changing slowly with the recent and ongoing influx of NGO's and programs that train local health promoters in rural communities.

Another common problem, mentioned above, is lack of education and funding for birth control practices. This can be directly contributed to the religious nature of the Guatemala. The population of Guatemala is split in religious practices, between Catholicism and Evangelical Christianity, a growing conservative movement of approximately 1/3 of the population. Also, Cofridias, who are local Mayan traditional religious personages, tend to include a constituency of the poorest and least educated of the indigenous population. This population utilizes the unskilled midwives that practice in every small village. The average number of live births per women ranges from 4-8 in Guatemala, which has unreliable and inadequate means to statistically measure the population.

In my interview with a doctor practicing in Quetzaltenango, the second largest city and center of the Quiche indigenous population of the heavily populated rural highlands, eight births was the most common. With this type of grand multiparty come all sorts of uterine problems leading to increased morbidity and mortality (Dr. Angel Diaz, 1998). A typical problem is infections, caused by a lack of basic hygiene due to limited or no access to clean, running water. Cesarean sections rates are on the increase and so are resulting deaths from surgery due to repeated stress on the uterus. The poorest of the indigenous populations rely on traditional midwives who normally have no modern training.

One of the main indicators of health in developing countries is the rate of tetanus toxoid vaccination of the population. In Guatemala, the Center for International Health Information estimates that only 33 percent of the population is vaccinated, yet in rural areas this number is vastly overestimated. A direct result of this can be see in some unskilled midwives' practices, where a common lubricant used for vaginal exams is pig fat, which has a high potential to cause tetanus infection, followed usually by death. Rural midwives sometimes may sustain a 35 percent mortality rate, directly caused by tetanus related effects.

Goals to work towards

Improving the quality of obstetrical care and decreasing the barriers to access are the key issues defined by the World Health Organization's Division of Reproductive Health. The criteria for good maternal health services has been broken down into ten basic areas, ranging from the competence and cultural sensitivity of practitioners to the accessibility of equipment and supplies for practitioners. It is crucial that maternal health services be put in the budget, so to speak.

To reach a level of care in Guatemala that WHO describes, several basic changes in the socio-economic structure must occur and are starting to be realized. These include changing the educational system to retain students all the way to the University level through the use of bi-lingual curriculum, funding local clinics, providing education to untrained midwives of basic modern methods of aseptic technique, disease transmission and nutrition, social marketing and government support of birth control and the local and country-wide development of standards of care for maternal services.

With the signing of the Peace Accords, it may be that Guatemala's underground, nascent and recently legitimized social movements will gain momentum and create positive political change in Guatemala, with an ensuing empowerment of local, indigenous communities, women and poor Ladinos, though many signs point to a shift towards growing economic and political conservatism with attendant neoliberal policies and lack of social reforms. $

Book Reviews

Medicine Stories

Wendy C. Ortiz

Medicine Stories: History, Culture, and the Politics of Integrity **by Aurora Levins Morales.**

Cambridge: South End Press, 1998.

"As historians we need to either be artists and community educators or find people who are and figure out how to collaborate with them."

My experiences with telling my story to others has often brought a sense of doubt, fear, and sometimes shame in the telling. Not because I am ashamed by my experiences; actually, with each retelling, the shame fades farther into a pinpoint of nonexistence. But my story is not so cut & dry. There are people in my herstory that some could judge as *bad* people: the "friend" that used racial slurs to describe my people to my face, or the "teacher" that abused his authority and initiated sexual intimacy with myself and other young women that was downright wrong. And depending on how I tell the story, I can tell you a little or a lot about my parents. Some adjectives would put them into the category of "dysfunctional" and others would put them into a category of seriously endangering the child that I once was. And other adjectives would also tell you of their love, the world as they understood it, and why they never taught me Spanish. The contradictions abound. There is no binary of "good people" or "bad people." And as I reflect on my herstory, with each retelling, there is another truth uncovered, some other side of the matter that was once opaque to *my vision.*

"As historians we need to either be artists and community educators or find people who are and figure out how to collaborate with them." -- Aurora Levins Morales.

Medicine Stories comes from the author's parallel work around histories and her own personal stories. Levins Morales describes the work she does as "cultural activism." Her work weaves both stories she has learned from outside sources, and the stories she has unearthed through her own research, as well as the stories she herself knows personally.

In the section "Historian as Curandera," Levins Morales takes on the issues of who writes history and the ways in which we are taught to trust (and mistrust) history. She makes the connection between the defensive act of silence, forgetting, and secrecy by the perpetrators of genocide throughout history and the current waves of the false memory movements and the Holocaust denialists/revisionists. She also brings to focus the healing that must occur, and the power of oppressed peoples to tell, and retell their stories, always in the context of resistance.

In her studies and retelling of history, she develops a "curandera's handbook of historical practice" and shares this with the reader. One instruction is to "embrace ambiguity and contradiction." This is a powerful message to the way most people view the world, let alone their own lives. When we can understand ourselves through this lens, we can also understand others. It also becomes a tool to see whole pictures, rather than fragments. We can also, as activists, envision ourselves in new ways, and magnify the impact we might have, even with our imperfections.

In the chapter "The Politics of Childhood," Levins Morales states the obvious, but often unspoken fact: that childhood is the great equalizer among us; childhood is the time and place where each and every one of us was oppressed in ways that would be considered atrocious in any other circumstance. Because of this, Levins Morales argues, we are in positions to become the administrators of the oppression we once faced. She offers radical suggestions about empowering children for their own liberation, which has the possible effect of changing the entire face of oppression across the spectrum.

"Speaking In Tongues" contains essays regarding language (English, Spanish, or neither) as well as language used in postmodern "private language"—language that can only be used and shared among academics. "Raíces" explores Levins Morales' personal history, and what it means for her to be a Puerto Rican Jew—the inconsistencies, the contradictions in her family genealogy, and the "spiritedness" and "rootedness" of her identity.

The title of this book is a mouthful. Spirituality, integrity, history, liberation, transforming victimhood: these and other concepts are covered in what is a melodic and engaging prose in *Medicine Stories.*

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS THAT YOU SAW THEIR AD IN WIP!

The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics **by George Lipsitz. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998.**

"Most of the best work in ethnic studies—work often derided as identity politics—in fact addresses the ways in which new social relations have given rise to new coalitions and conflicts that change the meaning of ethnic and racial identity....[ethnic studies scholars] argue that the same processes that exacerbate old divisions while generating new ones may open the way to unexpected affiliations and alliances based on the pursuit of social justice and on resistance to unjust hierarchies and exploitative practices."

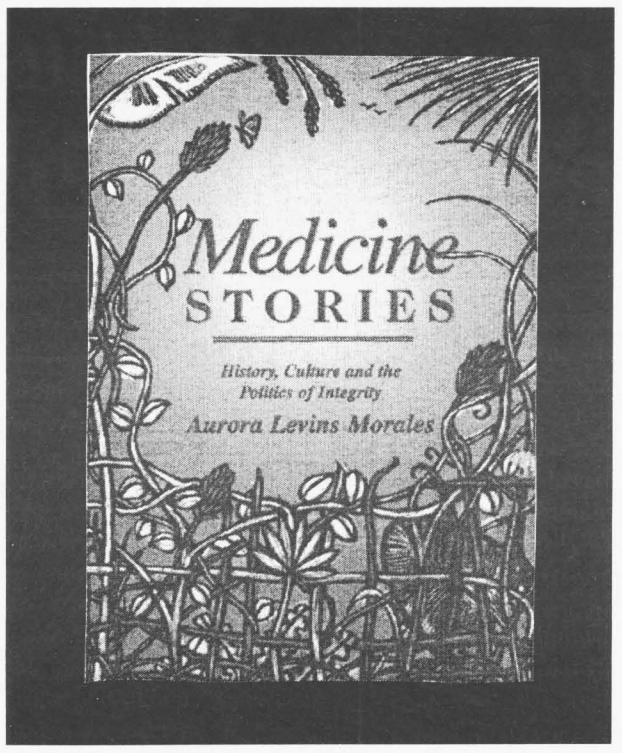
I was intrigued by the notion of "possessive investment in whiteness." Lipsitz is a white man, signifying his whiteness, and naming his privilege. Rather than deride "identity politics," he explores its meanings in this book, and also explores the concept of whiteness.

Lipsitz prefaces the reader with the fact that whiteness is, in fact, a fiction. While the concept of whiteness is fiction, it is nevertheless "a cash value" that reaps social rewards, benefits, and/or advantages. Lipsitz provides concrete analyses from everything ranging from housing (FHA loans that went to white homeowners and not to people of color), to education (track systems; property taxes that benefit rich, usually white, districts and the consequences for poor districts largely inhabited by people of color without an equal tax base), to employment (affirmative action, and the myth of reverse discrimination.)

Lipsitz also uses personal storytelling techniques to describe the possessive investment in whiteness. In the introduction, entitled "Bill Moore's Body," Lipsitz describes his "first confrontations with the possessive investment in whiteness" in 1963, after the attempt of a white man to do a one-person civil rights march throughout the south was murdered before he could even reach his destination. His entire book is replete with the instruction to whites that it is their opportunity, and most importantly, their responsibility, to "expose, analyze, and eradicate" the possessive investment in whiteness.

In "White Desire: Remembering Robert Johnson," Lipsitz exposes the dangerous romanticism that pop culture icons such as Eric Clapton place on the artist Robert Johnson. The danger is in the comparisons Clapton makes publicly between his own life and Robert Johnson's, though their lives were vastly different due to race and class. Lipsitz also exposes such shallow comparing in light of Clapton's racist commentary at public performances, while he publicly envisions himself sharing some sort of transcendental connection with Johnson. In " 'Frantic to Join...the Japanese Army': Beyond the Black-White Binary," Lipsitz analyses the pitting of blacks against Japanese during World War II, as well as the pitting of people of color against one another when it comes to any overseas war that the united states engages in: people of color fill the ranks to kill people of color in faraway lands. However, Lipsitz also exposes the connections made when people of color refuse to go along with orders and instead have built coalitions with "the enemy" or have become expatriates in protest of u.s. policy towards other countries. In "California: Mississippi of the 1990's," the reader is exposed to the depressing example of California, with its anti-immigrant laws, lack of affirmative action, crumbling public school system, and erosion of civil rights. The demographics of California are shifting towards a majority of people of color, which threatens the possessive investement in whiteness. The symptoms are largely the product of the common channels of the possessive investment in whiteness—housing, education, employment, and lawmaking.

Lipsitz implores readers of all colors to do the work in eradicating the possessive investment in whiteness. His closing thoughts summarize the cold shudder that stirs through me, and through others like me, when we've encountered too many well-meaning "white" liberals that don't walk their talk. His quest(ion), directed at whites: *"How can we account for the ways in which white people refuse to acknowledge their possessive investment in whiteness even as they work to increase its value every day? We can't blame the color of our skin. It must be the content of our character."*



White Lies: Race and the Myths of Whiteness **by Maurice Berger. New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 1999.**

"Pink" "Artifact" "Class" "Treason" These are some of the titles of the short, sharp chapters of *White Lies.*

The author, Jewish, queer, and an artist, relies on his own experiences growing up in a low-income housing project, as well as the stories that others have divulged to him regarding race.

Throughout the book, there is always a sense of intense self-reflection that still maintains a sense of simplicity, even when the subject is so complex. This is a political book, written in the lush language of an artist, by someone who wishes to share his experiences and others so that he may understand "what's up with whiteness." The reader is taken on a journey through Berger's multiracial, multicultural childhood, his liberal father and racist mother, and the path that whiteness takes him down: a world of privileges he receives that he was unfamiliar with when he was a child living in the projects. Adulthood, college, and whiteness propel him into turmoil around the racism he sees in himself that he once despised in his mother.

Berger grapples with racism by exploring his own, as well as conferring with other whites in various types of forums. He learns to dedicate himself to calling other whites on their racism, and uses art and artists as examples of the ways whites and people of color deal with racism. My favorite example of this is a piece by artist Adrian Piper, whose artwork entitled *My Calling (Card) #1 (For Dinners and Cocktail Parties) (1986-1990)* consists of distributing small, printed cards with a note on them that basically calls the receiver of the card on their racism, or their complicity with racism. The artist is black, and has been frequently challenged by whites about this art piece. While Berger's personal history is a thread that runs through the book, many times it was the stories told by others to him that resonated for me.

White Lies provides a range of stories from people that transcend statistics or polls. At times, I found the book too seem almost naive in its telling, but was satisfied by the end when Berger himself writes, "...I am surprised at [the manuscript's]...almost adolescent assuredness, its steadfast belief that white racism can be conquered." It's true that he sometimes comes off this way; in fact, I get the feeling he considers Bill Clinton with some regard for the (failed, forgettable) "Conversation on Race." But Berger's saving grace seems to be his constant recognizance of his whiteness, the value placed on it, and his decision to question and confront white privilege: *"In the process, I realize, I will always be watching myself."* $

ACLU of Washington Seeks Remedies For Health Problems in Women's Prison

A.C.L.U.

TACOMA, WA -- The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, joined by Columbia Legal Services and the Northwest Women's Law Center, on March 29th sought to extend federal jurisdiction in a case alleging serious deficiencies in health care at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. An evidentiary hearing expected to last two weeks begins today in U.S. District Court in Tacoma before Magistrate Judge David Wilson in Tacoma.

The move to extend the court's jurisdiction over the case was prompted by the continuing failure of the state to address serious deficiencies in the health care that create unacceptable risks of injury and harm to the women there.

The trial addresses the shocking increase of suicide attempts and self-inflicted injuries at the prison, as well as dental care far below acceptable minimum standards. Testimony will be presented by current and former prison staff, inmates, health care experts, and independent monitors.

In legal papers, the three organizations say that the state has not lived up to the terms of a 1995 stipulated judgment in a lawsuit they filed on behalf of women incarcerated at the corrections center.

Under the 1995 judgment, prison administrators agreed to develop a comprehensive health care plan to significantly improve the delivery of medical, dental, and mental health care services in order to meet minimal constitutional standards of decency.

Experts reviewing conditions at the prison concluded that the health care system was so deficient it jeopardized the health and safety of the women.

Experts reviewing conditions at the prison had concluded that the health care system was so deficient that it jeopardized the health and safety of the women. In fact, during the course of the lawsuit, an inmate died in the prison infirmary from a perforated peptic ulcer. Two state-sponsored investigations into the matter later concluded that the prisoner's death was avoidable.

Inhumane conditions at the Washington Corrections Center are part of a nationwide problem. In March, Amnesty International USA released a reporting describing widespread abuses of women in America's prisons, including inadequate medical care.

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Books To Prisoner Page

Policing the Police

NY --*The Times* reports people in New York fear and distrust police, believing blacks and minorities to be the frequent victims of racially biased police abuses.

***The New York Times* reported that fewer than a quarter of all New Yorkers believe that the police treat blacks and whites evenly, with blacks in particular distrusting the police.**

In *The Times* poll, nearly 9 out of 10 black residents said they thought the police often engaged in brutality against blacks, and almost two-thirds said police brutality against members of minority groups is widespread. In addition, more than two-thirds of blacks said the policies of the Giuliani administration have caused an increase in police brutality.

"When you substitute skin color for evidence, what you get is Jim Crow Justice," said Ira Glasser, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union. "The police are out of control."

©1999, American Civil Liberties Union

Two women file complaints against Eugene, OR for violation of privacy

A.C.L.U.

EUGENE, OR -- Two women who say their privacy was violated when Eugene police demanded their Social Security numbers will filed a formal complaint with the city, the *Oregonian* reported.

After being stopped by an officer in January for a bicycle infraction, one woman said she gave the officer her driver's license when it was requested. But when he asked for her Social Security number, she relented only when she felt threatened and after the officer had called for backup officers, she told the paper.

The woman, who was not cited during that incident, said she thought now that under the federal Privacy Act she was not required to give the officer her number at all. That act states that it is unlawful to deny an individual's rights because of that person's refusal to disclose a Social Security number, the *Oregonian* said.

Polly Nelson, the southern district coordinator of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, concurred and told the *Oregonian* that she is troubled by the growing trend of relying on Social Security numbers as a form of identification. She said she knows of no particular statute that gives police the right to ask for numbers.

"The police need to cite exactly what their authority is for asking," she told the paper.

Nelson said the ACLU has long felt uncomfortable about the wide use of Social Security numbers.

"They're used so often for what they weren't intended for," she said. "The public has become complacent and doesn't object when they're asked to give over that number."

The second woman filing a complaint told the paper that she decided to come forward over a late July incident with Eugene police when she recently realized that she had the right not to disclose her Social Security number.

She was one of about 40 bicycle riders participating in the summer Critical Mass ride, and was stopped by a police officer who demanded her number, the *Oregonian* reported.

When she refused, she was hand-cuffed and placed in a patrol car. About 10 minutes later, she told the paper that the officer said she would be released if she consented to being fingerprinted. After giving a print, Johnson was cited for failure to obtain a parade permit.

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Books to Prisoners May Events

- Open drop-in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Bulldog News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (May 16th), 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia
- Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- **Save UPC code from Western Family Products** & send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Attention Prisoners

***W.I.P.* seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress,
PO Box 295,
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books to Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanacs, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- **Any other good books**
- **Stamps and stamp money**
- **Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying**

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Telephone: (360) 352-7336

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

From Amnesty International

"I was taken into a separate room and three police officers came in and started beating me. Then a fourth officer came in and he started beating me, too. I screamed very loudly throughout the ordeal -- but everyone in the station ignored it. I was kept in a cell overnight and, the next day, I was sent to the hospital. I had two black eyes and contusions all over my body. The police claimed that I had slipped and hit myself on the corner of a desk . . . I can't feel like I'm safe on the streets anymore."

Shirley Alejos, Chicago
US citizen of Puerto Rican origin

Mothers Matter

by Amy Love

The following commentary represents the view of this member of WROC and does not necessarily represent the view of WROC or its membership.

Has something terrible happened when a mother is told that wanting to be at home when her child gets off the school bus, to prepare healthy homemade food for lunch, to be physically present in the child's life is nothing more than a "personal choice?"

What has happened to the ways people think? To what they value as important and necessary? What kinds of values and principles are guiding people's thoughts and actions and decisions and "choices?" Much must be considered and reflected upon when the idea is so firmly rooted in many people's minds that wanting to be a physically present, cooking, playing, listening, Time-Filled mother is nothing more than a personal choice—likened to what kind of car to buy, whether to perm one's hair, or which TV show to watch on 43 channels.

Those, yes, are personal choices. Mothering used to be a given, a right, a rite. But now, even if a woman is not parenting alone and she has a "partner" the idea of her "choosing" to stay at home or be "just" a full-time mother is unthinkable to many. And, if she is a "single" mother, the idea of staying at home to be a full-time physically present mother becomes almost an unthinkable fantasy, a dream.

So, what if you are a mother with no other grown ups helping you with your parent responsibilities? The idea has become so pervasive that a single mother's most important role is to be the "head of household" breadwinner, to earn enough plus extra money for her self and her children to provide them living conditions and food and clothes that will keep them out of poverty. She is expected, as demonstrated by the state of Washington's Workfirst program, to think of WORK as her first priority. Nevermind the children—there are daycares for that—which the state will pay for. The state will NOT pay HER to care for her own children, but they will pay childcare workers because the mother must go to WORK to earn money.

As Mother's Day approaches, some questions ought to be asked and reflected upon. What exactly is the mother's role these days? Do mothers really matter? Is mothering just another "personal choice?" Does it really mean anything to children if their mothers are physically present in their day to day lives—to cook nutritious homemade food, play with them,take them to the park, color, listen, rock them to sleep at a leisurely pace rather than everything being regimented by the schedule and the clock?

Who do we beleive? The research studies that show how "children of working mothers are no worse off than those who have stay at home mothers?" Or the little children who cry and tear at the mother's clothes as she drops them off again at daycare? Do we beleive the governments directives that mothers should "WORK" first rather than MOTHER first?

How did all of this controversy about being a mother come about? What can be done about it? Is it a matter of the political or the personal? What are the true standards by which to measure the quality of our lives as mothers and as children? What are the long term consequences of looking at the mother role as nothing more than a "personal choice?"

These and many other issues will be addressed at an upcoming Teach-In sponsored by the **Olympia chapter of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition on Saturday May 8th from 11-3 at United Churches, 11th and Capital.**. A variety of presentations and mini-workshops will be available and are all free to those who come. Lunch will be provided and free childcare, too.

Please choose to attend! Together, let's consider some important questions: who lives in poverty and why? How do government policies contribute to or alleviate poverty? How can we begin to share our resources and create changes?

Above all, let's gather together to celebrate Mothers. To realize that indeed, MOTHERS MATTER!!! For more information, please call 352-9716. $

Elizabeth Martinez

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–Angela Y. Davis, *from the foreword*

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South End Press **www.lbbs.org/sep/sep.htm**

Briefs continued

and a horse at the hands of Bureau of Indian Affairs rangers (BIA). Whitesinger, a Dine (Navajo) senior citizen, is nationally reknowned for her passion and perserverence while struggling against forcible relocation from her home for over 25 years.

Her home, which had been passed down to her through many generations of clan matriarchs, is located on top of what some Dine refer to as the kidneys of the Earth- an enormous deposit of coal, which filters rainwater as it seeps down to the water table, just as our kidneys filter our blood. This coal is important not only in regard to the ecological integrity of the region, but also to the stability of the U.S. fossil fuel-based economy. Peabody Coal Company, the largest coal extraction corporation in the U.S., wants to expand its Black Mesa operation onto Whitesinger's ancestral home. The central governments of both the Hopi Nation and the U.S. have worked on behalf of Peabody since the early '70's, using both legal and illegal tactics to remove Dine residents of Big Mountain from the area.

The impoundment of Whitesinger's cow (which she could, legally, pay to have returned, but cannot afford), and the shooting of her horse, are good examples of the kind of government strategy taken at this point to force the last Dine resisters to move from their homes. They can only afford to commit these morally unacceptable acts because they think that the millions of non-Dine supporters are no longer paying attention to the issue.

If you care about Big Mountain, now's a good time to show it! Call Evergreen's Native Student Alliance for more information: 866-6000, and ask for the NSA extension.

Hear Ye! Hear ye!

The newly forming **South Sound Labor Party** Organizing Committee is having an 'organizing benefit' party on **Saturday, May 1st from 7-11pm at the Matrix Coffeehouse in downtown Chehalis at 434 Prindle St.**, courtesy of new LP members and Matrix co-owners Rick Straw and Holly St. Clair. Olympial musicians Andras Jones and Daniel "Mud Cat" McInstry will perform sets, Rick will tell stories in the working class tradition of Utah Phillips and LP members (new and 'old') will give impromptu 'soap box' presentation in between sets and stories encouraging non-members to join us in this historic process of creating a mass based progressive third party in America.

Come one, come all. Invite your co-workers friends, families, neighbor and acquaintances if you think they might be interested in a radical alternative to the Republicrats! The Matrix is an all ages venue, so children and teens are welcome.

In Praise of Immigrants

Pay tribute to the lasting contributions of foreign-born workers to U.S. culture, commerce and the battles for labor rights and civil liberties at the Freedom Socialist Party's annual May Day celebration. The event will feature a diverse panel of unionists and refugee advocates as well as ethnic music.

Sunday, May 2nd at 2pm
New Freeway Hall
5018 Rainier Ave S., Seattle

Door donation is $2 and a Spanish paella dinner will be served at 5pm for an $8.95 donation (work exchanges and sliding scale available for low-income people). For childcare or rides call in advance 206/722-2453. Wheelchair accessible.

Cinco de Mayo with ALMA

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us through the music of 'Alma'

'Alma' is an all-acoustic ensemble that brings to life the Chicano/Latino experience through musical presentations using styles from Mexican, Latin American, and Afro-Cuban cultures. They will be performing 'Chicano: 500 Years of Struggle', a performance which tells the story of a people's quest for freedom. From the Conquest to the plight of farmworkers to the Zapatistas in Chiapas, 'Alma' communicates a powerful message of resistance and hope.

'Alma' is composed of three core musicians; Agustin Lira, Patricia Wells Solorzano, and Ravi Knypstra. Lira joined with Wells in 1979 to start 'Alma' after having co-founded 'El Teatro Campesino' (Farmworker Theater) during the Delano Grape Strike organized by Cesar Chavez and the UFW. The theater company had created songs and plays, and performed at meetings, rallies, and protests using satire to entertain and inform strikers and the general public. Through the group 'Alma', this tradition continues as the trio creates music in support of the rights of farmworkers, migrants, and indigenous people. Their mission, Lira has said, is to remind people under seige that they are not alone, to honor their strength. As one admirer put it, "They go beyond a culture of resistance to actively assert hope in the power of human beings to change their destiny." 'Alma' has recorded several albums, received numerous awards, and performed in music festivals from Cuba to Washington, D.C.

They will be performing on Tuesday, May 4 at 8pm in the Longhouse of the Evergreen State College.

Also, Wednesday, May 5, you're invited to Evergreen's campus at noon to enjoy the rich sounds of local musical group 'Ocho Pies' in a continued celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Watch for flyers describing more Cinco de Mayo events. Events sponsored by LASO and MEChA of the Evergreen State College.

First the Forest: An Eco-Feminist Fairytale

Friday, May 7, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.
Evergreen State College Longhouse
It's *FREE!*

First The Forest: An Eco-Feminist Fable will be making it's northwest premiere at The Evergreen State College Friday, May 7, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. in the Longhouse. Hosted by The Women of Color Coalition, this spoken word performance begins as a fable recounting the destruction of a southeast Asian forest at the hands of multinational interests. As trees are cut down, the people's livelihood is stolen, and women's connection to the land and the ancestors disappears. Juxtaposed with this fable is a new urban tale: Jump to the city, where sex work and global sex tourism are described through monologues of a young woman, her personal story describing larger political issues.

This describes the core of First the Forest , a new interdisciplinary performance work created by the collaborative team of Joanna Kadi, Cynthia Lane, and Juliana Pegues and directed by Dipankar Mukherjee.

The three collaborators combine a range of approaches, talents, and artistic skills. Pegues has worked as a performance artist for six years, while Lane has performed Afro-Cuban and West African drumming for 18 years. Kadi is a musician, author of Thinking Class: Sketches from a Cultural Worker , and editor of *Food for Our Grandmothers*, an anthology of Arab-Canadian and Arab-American feminist writings.

In First the Forest , vibrant monologue and prose are illuminated by shadow puppetry (designed and performed by Roger Peet). Live music ties the themes together . Lane and Kadi play congas, jembes (West African standing drums), and derbekes (the traditional Arabic hand drum). Rhythms and melodies reflect Afro-

Briefs & Annoucements, cont.

Cuban, West African, Arab, and rural white American influences.

First the Forest deals with political topics such as environmental destruction, global economics, the exploitation of women's bodies, and the concept of women-centered culture." The work addresses the relationship between women and land, not in a simplistic 'love Mother Earth' way, but through a deep and creative exploration of feminism and environmentalism , racism, and classism," said Pegues." Through fable and monologue, music and puppetry, the result is a powerful vision."

For more information contact the Women of Color Coalition at (360) 866-6000 ext. 6006

DENNIS BRUTUS TO SPEAK IN OLYMPIA

Renowned poet, Dennis Brutus, a leader in Jubilee 2000, the broad movement to cancel the foreign debt of low-income countries, will speak about this campaign and read his powerful poetry in Olympia on **Friday, May 7th.**

Dennis Brutus, known as "the singing voice of the South African Liberation Movement" was the leader in the movement to have South Africa expelled from the Olympics in the 1960's. He was imprisoned in South Africa and after being released and a long legal struggle became a resident of the United States. He is currently the chair person of the Black Studies Department at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been a leader in the struggle against apartheid and since the end of apartheid has focused his writing and speaking on the devastation caused in Africa by the policies of international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He has been travelling back and forth between South Africa and the United States as a leader in Jubilee 2000, the growing worldwide campaign to cancel the debt of counties in Sub-Saharan Africa and other low income countries.

Dennis Brutus has published 12 books of poetry, including A Simple Lust, and is the recipient of the Langston Hughes Award for poetry and the Paul Robeson award for artistic integrity. Drawing from his own life, his poetry takes the audience from the rigors of apartheid to the bestiality of imprisonment and from the desolation of exile to those moments of recognition, hope and love that make the struggle worthwhile.

1. Dennis Brutus will read his poetry at the Spring Arts Festival on Red Square at the Evergreen State College at 12:30 P.M. (if it rains, Library Lobby at the Evergreen State College)

2. Talk by Dennis Brutus, "Jubilee 2000: The Global Campaign to Cancel Third World Debt" at 3:00 P.M., Library Lobby, The Evergreen State College

3. Talk by Dennis Brutus, "The Present and Future Prospects of South Africa, and Why its International Debt Should Be Canceled", 7 P.M., 2nd Floor Bulldog News, 116 4th Ave., East, downtown Olympia.

There is no charge for these events. For more information, contact Peter Bohmer 360 866-6000, X6431, email: bohmerp@evergreen.edu

Spring Art Festival

Friday, May 7

Spring Art Festival presents the "Urban Arts Expo" at Evergreen:

10am-6pm: Urban Art Show in the Library Lobby; 12-4pm: Spoken Word Performances on Red Square; 7pm-?: Sunset Party with DJ's Spun, Josh Stanton, and Kris on the Soccer Field; 9pm-?: Hardcore Show with Backside Disaster, Himsa, Last Man Standing in Library 4300.

Saturday, May 8 at Evergreen:

12-6pm: The Urban Arts Expo Community Mural Project on Red Square; 1-4:30pm: B-Boy Battles hosted by DV-One at the Campus Recreation Center; 4:40-7pm: Panel Discussions on Red Square; 7-8pm: Guest Speaker Boots of the COUP in front of the Campus Recreation Center; 8pm-?: The COUP, JMG, Lifesavas, and Asphalt Meditations at the Campus Recreation Center.

WROC Mother's Day Teach-In

The Olympia chapter of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition will hold a community teach-in and celebration on Saturday, May 8th, from 11am until 2pm. The purpose of the teach-in is to bring people together to talk about the political causes of poverty and to celebrate the unpaid work that we all do to maintain our families and our community.

Why are people in the Olympia and throughout the world unable to meet their basic needs? Is poverty a natural part of our society, or does is it result from the decisions of government officials? If poverty does have political causes, how should the community respond?

The teach-in will consist of several short presentations, small group discussions and workshops, and a final large group discussion. We hope to bring together a large, diverse group and to make the teach-in as participatory as possible. Our goal is to encourage people to work together to understand the situations they face and to figure out how to respond. The teach-in will include lunch, and there will be childcare available to everyone who attends. We are still planning the day, and we would like to plan activities that include both parents and their children. We are still seeking a location for the teach-in; we are hoping that it will be held at a downtown church.

The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition is a group of more than 4000 welfare recipients, other low-income people, with allies in several chapters around western Washington. It organizes to help people share resources and information, to break down the feeling of isolation that low-income people face, and to change the policies of state agencies and of the government in ways that promote social and economic justice. If you have any questions or would like to help plan the teach-in, please call us at (360)352-9716, or email us at wrocoly@juno.com. Our office is in the First Christian Church at 7th and Franklin Streets in Olympia, near the Timberland Library.

GATHERING TO FIGHT RACISM

MAY 8, 1999, OLYMPIA, WA
12:00 NOON, MARCH STARTING POINT SYLVESTER PARK (LEGION & CAPITAL) - 1:00 P.M. RALLY WASHINGTON STATE CAPITAL

This year's WASHINGTON GATHERING TO FIGHT RACISM will be focusing on the long struggles of political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier. These two cases have come to represent the worst of institutionalized racism in the U.S. so-called justice system. Also, these two cases represent just how far the justice system we go to frame those that speak out against injustice. There is a great bond of solidarity between Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier, for they both know the great importance their solidarity means to all political prisoners and the fight against racism and injustice in this land. We are also focusing on the struggle of Native Prisoners to regain their religious rights in Washington State prisons. There has been a new wave of denial of these rights that few people seem to know about.

In focusing on this issue we also acknowledge the struggles of other prisoners as the prison system is becoming more oppressive and reactionary every day.

NWLPSN-Olympia Office, 5201 Capitol Blvd, Suite 119, Olympia, WA 98501.

Know Your Tenant Rights

Monday, May 10th
6pm in Olympia Library

Free public resource to let you know your rights as a tenant.

Roller Skate Benefit

Thursday, May 13th
6:30pm-8:30pm
Skateland in Olympia
$5 admission

Help support CLIP and have fun skating! CLIP is the Coalition of Low-Income Power.

Rethinking the Corporation

Friday, May 14th evening
Saturday, May 15th afternoon

A free two day workshop conducted by Karen Coultier of the Program on Corporations Law and Democracy. Sponsored by Olympians Concerned About Democracy. Limited Attendance available. RSVP ASAP with Leon at 866-7429.

Know Your Rights Workshop for Low Income Parents

Saturday, May 15
9:30-4pm at United Churches

Know your rights as a participant of Washington's Work First Program. Know your rights as an employee. Gather information about community resources that are available to you. Brought to you by Olympia WROC and Columbia Legal Services.

RAMP Seeks Free Cable

Monday, May 17 at 7pm
Olympia Timberland Library

Radical Alternative Media Project is looking to bring some issues to the table when the City of Olympia renegotiates the cable franchise agreement. This meeting is to draw more people into our endeavors and to get more ideas. RAMP proposes that the Public, Government, and Educational channels be freely available to all within the city without a monthly fee. Also we want a mini-basic package that includes the above and the non-cable channels such as 4 and 13 for a small monthly fee. Does free cable interest you? Call 705-2726 for more information.

Y2K & Waste

Join other concerned communtiy members for a lively discussion with public officials about how we'll safely handle waste into the year 2000. We'll also begin discussing some contingency plans that might help each of us be better prepared at home. Together we will sort out possible solutions.

Wednesday, May 19th at 6:30pm
General Administration Auditorium
11th and Columbia, Olympia

Sponsored by the Resilience Network as part of the Y2K Workshop Series of the Sustainable Community Roundtable. Call 352-2215.

Transgender Film Festival

The Evergreen Queer Alliance presents the Transgender Film Festival at **Evergreen on Saturday, May 22, from 10am-midnight in Lecture Hall 1.**

STREET PARTY

JUNE 12th - DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA

imagine an enormous street party in downtown olympia with music and food, fun & games, community and adventure. a liberated space for unlimited creativity. a celebration of the potential of freedom. free from the drab monotony of work and school. free from the pollution and alienation of car culture and shopping malls. What does that leave? unavoidable pleasure

PLANNING MEETINGS:

Tuesdays, 7:30 at B&R, 114 Cherry St.

we need lots of help

publicity: tell your friends, relatives, coworkers; announce it at your meetings, on your radio show, on the bus!

donations: money, printing, wood, fabric, food, toys etc. your energy:

possible working groups include: children, food, entertainment, outreach, mass leafletting, bike team, fun & games, prop making, legal observance, media, documentation and more.

Reclaim the Streets - Olympia
www.tao.ca/~oshan/rts/
360-534-9168 or olyrts@tao.ca

Dance O' Dance

Open invitation from "Dance O' Dance" to any age, any style dancers to appear LIVE on public-access television in Thurston county.

This hour-long program by and for dancers is taped on the fourth Wednesday of each month and re-runs every Wednesday at 4pm & Friday at 10pm on channel 29.

Upcoming shows will be on May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, & September 22nd.

"Dance O' Dance" is in its fourth season on TCTV.

Dancers should arrive at TCTV studio "A", 440 Yauger way, off Mud Bay, by 2PM for instructions, warm-ups, & refreshments.

Contact the producer for more details: Justin B. Wright, 753-9665, or e-mail <justinb@writeme.com>

End Corporate Dominance

May 21-23, 1999

In our conference we are addressing the need to dismantle the mechanisms of corporate control over communities and ecosystems, rather than addressing individual corporate abuses or regulation reform, for many reasons:

While a successful movement to end corporate rule will inevitably include such proven tactics as direct action, general strikes, boycotts, marches and occupations, the first step is sparking public debate and imagination. This is the purpose of our conference:

* To tell the history of past citizen authority over corporations.
* To give examples of indigenous ways of thinking from more sustainable cultures not yet totally destroyed by corporate-colonized minds.
* To have workshops discussing possible tactics and strategies for a successful movement to end corporate dominance.
* To explore alternatives to corporate dependency.

For Olympia info on carpooling to Portland State University, etc call 352-8526 or culturejamming@hotmail.com

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

WORKS IN PROGRESS
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

photos by Grace Cox

15,000 people demonstrated in San Francisco on April 24th, 1999 in the *Millions For Mumia* action there, including over a hundred from the Puget Sound area.

1 **Mumia Will Be Heard at TESC Graduation & NATO & Kosovo**

4 **Along the Color Line**
Our Morality or Theirs

6 **May Day Celebration with the Labor Party**

7 **Poster**
On Stopping the War

10 **What's Wrong with U.S. Healthcare**

12 **Medicine Stories**

13 **Prison Interest Page**

Works In Progress is sponsoring a T-shirt design contest!

The winning design will get a free T-shirt. But wait, there's more. **The winner will also get 2 Sound Hours.** Now how much would you expect to participate? But not so fast, you will also get a special write-up in *Works In Progress* **AND** be listed in future issues of WIP in the coveted Workers In Progress box. And as if that weren't enough, you'll also receive a **free** subscription to *Works In Progress* for **one whole year**!

Sounds great to me!

How do I participate?

- Make a design.
- Make it 10" x 10" at the most.
- Make it for one color + shirt color. (Make a suggestion of colors.)
- Make it humorous, make it political, make it silly, make it arty or whatever.
- Make it with pictures, make it with stencils, make it with lines, or whatever.
- Make it with "Works In Progress" on it. (if you don't put it on, we will)

Just Make It!

Please send to WIP by 5/15/99. (Po Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507)
The winner will be announced and the design unveiled in the June issue!

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507